

2/23/2017

Page 1

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

WEEKLY MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

3:00 P.M.

DETROIT PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS

1301 THIRD STREET

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

1 COMMISSIONERS:

- 2 Willie E. Bell - Chairperson (Dist 4)
- 3 Ricardo Moore - Vice Chairperson (Dist 7)
- 4 Lisa Carter - (Dist 6)
- 5 Richard Shelby - (Dist 1)
- 6 Conrad Mallett - Appointed
- 7 Reginald Crawford - (Dist 3)
- 8 Derrick Sanders - Appointed

9

10 FROM THE DEPARTMENT:

- 11 Robert Brown
- 12 Gregory Hicks - Secretary
- 13 Alan Quinn - Audio
- 14 James E. Craig - Chief of Police

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1 Detroit, Michigan  
2 Thursday, February 23, 2016  
3 3:00 p.m.

4 CHAIR BELL: Good afternoon. I am  
5 Willie Bell, your Chair from District 4. This is the  
6 weekly afternoon meeting of the Board of Appeals. Good  
7 to see all of your smiling faces this afternoon. I  
8 want to say thank you for your attendance and we're  
9 going to call the meeting to order.

10 At this time, I'm going to ask my good  
11 friend, Commissioner Richard Shelby, the invocation,  
12 please.

13 COMM. SHELBY: Let us pray.

14 (Recited prayer.)

15 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, Commissioner Shelby.  
16 I'm going to ask the Commissioners to  
17 introduce themselves, starting with my -- Commissioner on  
18 my right. I'm looking --

19 COMM. SANDERS: Commissioner Derrick Sanders,  
20 At-Large.

21 COMM. CARTER: Commissioner Lisa Carter,  
22 District 6.

23 COMM. MOORE: Commissioner Ricardo Moore,  
24 Vice-Chair, District 7.

25 COMM. CRAWFORD: Commissioner Reginald

1 Crawford, District 3.

2 COMM. SHELBY: Commissioner Richard Shelby,  
3 District 1.

4 CHAIR BELL: Mr. Secretary, do we have a  
5 quorum.

6 MR. HICKS: You have six members so you do  
7 have a quorum.

8 CHAIR BELL: We have Commissioner  
9 Willie Burton from District 5 excused. And  
10 Commissioner Eva Dewaelsche, At-Large excused and  
11 Bishop Edgar Vann from District 2 excused.

12 We have a quorum. We're going to move  
13 forward. At this time, I'm going to ask the  
14 commissioners to approve the agenda for this  
15 afternoon's meeting, February 23rd.

16 COMM. MOORE: So move.

17 COMM. SHELBY: Second.

18 CHAIR BELL: It's been properly moved and  
19 seconded. Those in favor, "aye".

20 THE COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

21 CHAIR BELL: Those opposed?

22 Motion carries.

23 The next item of business, approval of  
24 February 16, 2017 minutes.

25 COMM. MOORE: So move.

1                   COMM. SANDERS:  Second.

2                   CHAIR BELL:  It's been properly moved and  
3 supported.  Discussion?

4                   Those in favor, "aye".

5                   THE COMMISSIONERS:  Aye.

6                   CHAIR BELL:  Those opposed?

7                   Motion carry.

8                   The next item of business, I would introduce  
9 our board staff, our Secretary to the Board,  
10 Gregory Hicks.

11                  MR. HICKS:  Thank you, Mr. Chair.  I just  
12 want to introduce a few of our staff who is here today.

13                  Robert Brown, who is to our immediate right  
14 and, of course, our fiscal person is Ms. Johnson.  Next  
15 to Ms. Johnson is Ms. White and we're going to return,  
16 of course, to OCI Chief Drake, as she introduces the  
17 balance of her staff.

18                  I should note that Sergeant Quinn is taping  
19 our meeting.  Medial Services is also providing the  
20 audio/visual work and then Norma (sic) Storm is our  
21 court reporter for today.  And if we could go to  
22 Chief Drake.

23                  CI DRAKE:  For the record,  
24 Pamela Davis-Drake, Chief Investigator.  With us today  
25 is Crime Investigator Ainsley Cromwell.

1 CHAIR BELL: So I guess the next item of  
2 business -- thanks for the introduction of the staff.  
3 He don't need introduction. He looking like Hollywood  
4 this afternoon, Chief Craig. But he's from Detroit,  
5 from the west side, Cass Tech grad and all of above.

6 Chief Craig, good to see you this afternoon,  
7 sir.

8 CHIEF CRAIG: Good afternoon, Mr. President.  
9 I got to ask a question. This is a wool coat so it  
10 really wouldn't fit in Hollywood. So --

11 CHAIR BELL: I didn't make that Hot Sam  
12 observation.

13 CHIEF CRAIG: I'm bleeding over here.

14 CHAIR BELL: No, no. You know I love you. I  
15 love you.

16 CHIEF CRAIG: Well, good afternoon and I'll  
17 go ahead and start.

18 CHAIR BELL: Yes, sir.

19 CHIEF CRAIG: If my staff could introduce  
20 themselves starting with Deputy Chief Hall.

21 DEPUTY CHIEF HALL: Deputy Chief Renee Hall,  
22 East Operations.

23 DEPUTY CHIEF LeVALLEY: Deputy Chief  
24 David LeValley.

25 MS. WASHINGTON: Celia Washington, Legal

1 Advisor.

2 DEPUTY FITZGERALD: Deputy  
3 Charles Fitzgerald, a Pro Op.

4 COMMANDER BETTISON: Todd Bettison, Chief  
5 Neighborhood Liaison.

6 MR. WILSON: Lionel Wilson, Major Crime  
7 Division.

8 COMMANDER LEACH: Commander Tim Leach,  
9 11th Precinct.

10 COMMANDER WALTON: Commander Whitney Walton,  
11 the 12th Precinct.

12 COMMANDER KRYIACOU: Commander Nick Kryiacou,  
13 10th Precinct.

14 (Inaudible)

15 LIEUTENANT COX: Lieutenant LaShonda Cox,  
16 Chief Liaison.

17 (Inaudible)

18 DIRECTOR WOODY: Director Michael Woody,  
19 Media Relations.

20 COMM. MOORE: Through the Chair, is there a  
21 reason there's so many commander officers right here?

22 CHIEF CRAIG: (Inaudible) They voluntarily  
23 decided to come this afternoon.

24 CHAIR BELL: It's good to see staff, as  
25 always, come here and work with DPD families. It's

1 good to see you this afternoon. And thank you for the  
2 introduction, Chief. I hope you're in the spirit of  
3 love. A good laughter is al -- you're not the subject  
4 of that but it's always -- you know.

5 CHIEF CRAIG: The spirit of love is always  
6 good.

7 CHAIR BELL: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.  
8 I'd like to -- another young man who need no  
9 introduction, our very own Corporation Counsel,  
10 Melvin Butch Hollowell is with us this afternoon.

11 And thank you. We're going to hear from you  
12 shortly.

13 MR. HOLLOWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 CHAIR BELL: Okay. Any other elected  
15 official or appointed official or someone representing  
16 in that capacity, would you introduce yourself, please.

17 DR. DIVERS: I'm Arthur Divers.

18 CHAIR BELL: Dr. Divers.

19 DR. DIVERS: I'm the liaison for  
20 George Cushingberry --

21 CHAIR BELL: Thank you.

22 DR. DIVERS: District 2.

23 MR. ASHFORD: Jerry Ashford, Chief  
24 Litigation, Law Department.

25 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, sir.

1                   Anyone else?

2                   MS. BUTLER: I'm Fredia Butler, Community  
3                   Activist, President for the 2nd Precinct and Community  
4                   Relations Council.

5                   CHAIR BELL: It's always good to see you,  
6                   President Butler. From the 2nd -- what Precinct?

7                   MS. BUTLER: 2nd Precinct.

8                   CHAIR BELL: Okay. Okay. That's the old  
9                   14th Precinct. You don't know nothing about that.  
10                  Maybe you do. Maybe you do.

11                  I don't really have an official report. I  
12                  just want to say that things are moving well, in terms  
13                  of the Board of Police Commission, in terms of work.  
14                  We attended the State of the City by the Mayor this  
15                  week. It was good to hear, in reference to things are  
16                  moving on, especially the impact on our neighborhoods  
17                  and public safety. And Chief got a little accolades  
18                  there; I appreciate that, representing the Department.  
19                  So -- the interworkings that we continue to be engaging  
20                  in. And you would hear more about our work in the  
21                  near, near future.

22                  So we're going to move the agenda. Since we  
23                  have a heavy agenda this afternoon, I'm not going to  
24                  belabor the dialogue.

25                  I do want to mention something that came

1 before us about three weeks ago in our community  
2 meeting, a list of Michigan Commission of Law  
3 Enforcement Standards, MCOLES, who do certifications of  
4 police officers in the State of Michigan. And they  
5 passed out a survey form.

6 If you're not aware of the survey form, make  
7 sure that you get a copy. I got some copies here and I  
8 guess we put it on our website. They're asking you to  
9 respond. It's all about the Governor has a desire to  
10 making sure that we, in law enforcement -- it's a  
11 survey to impact law enforcement throughout the State  
12 of Michigan. And the thrust is improving the trust and  
13 cooperation between the public and members of law  
14 enforcement is the goal.

15 And it's a very simple survey form. And our  
16 Chief Investigator said it only took ten minutes to  
17 fill it out. In fact, I will be doing mine tonight.  
18 So let's take advantage. The survey will be closed on  
19 March the 20th, 2017. Now, keep in mind it's also open  
20 to all; that's law enforcement persons and civilians.  
21 So it's not restrictive, in terms of you taking a look  
22 at it and trying to impact the survey.

23 So far, 7,000 have responded to the survey  
24 but I know we can do better than that. I'm hoping that  
25 others will pick it up and take advantage of this

1 particular survey. And I think that it would make a  
2 difference as we move towards public trust and police  
3 interaction in the community. So this is your  
4 opportunity to weigh in on it.

5 So, with that, it would be Chief Craig.

6 CHIEF CRAIG: Okay. And I'll be brief,  
7 Mr. Chair. I know that we have a heavy agenda. First,  
8 I'd like to talk, just briefly, crime.

9 Year to date, we're in the first quarter  
10 year, we're sitting on a 6 percent reduction in violent  
11 crime; a five percent reduction, property crime; and in  
12 overall part-one crime, we're down five percent, which  
13 is a goal set for this year.

14 However, where we are seeing a challenge is  
15 in the area of homicide, we're up 20 percent as  
16 compared to this time last year. And nine fatal  
17 shootings, we're up 44 percent compared to this time  
18 last year. In looking at the sheetings, it appears  
19 that most of them tend to be gang- or group-related, so  
20 we're confident and hopeful that our Cease Fire efforts  
21 will continue to take hold.

22 And the last thing I'll say is today  
23 Assistant Chief Steve Dolunt announced his retirement  
24 effective tomorrow.

25 CHAIR BELL: Well, I'll -- I wish him the

1 best. He's been engaging with the community and with  
2 this Board, well respected. So I know there's life  
3 after retirement and I'm looking for his endeavors. So  
4 I thank him in advance for serving. I'm pretty sure we  
5 would draft an appropriate resolution. And I hope to  
6 attend his retirement celebration; that's what it is --

7 CHIEF CRAIG: Yes, retirement.

8 CHAIR BELL: -- an opportunity -- and such  
9 heavy shoes to fill because he's been out there 24/7,  
10 24/7 in my opinion, in the last three and a half years.  
11 I think highly of his career, in terms of his  
12 involvement and representing DPD and I'm pretty sure  
13 that other commissioners could speak to that issue.

14 But any question or comments for the Chief?

15 COMM. CRAWFORD: I just have a comment on  
16 that, also, too. I wish him the best, also, too. And  
17 kind of an understatement, he's been engaged,  
18 Commissioner Bell, he certainly has. I agree  
19 wholeheartedly. And I wish him the best in future  
20 endeavors, whatever he decides to do.

21 COMM. MOORE: What would be the process for  
22 filling that position, Chief?

23 CHIEF CRAIG: We haven't even got -- this is  
24 all new so --

25 COMM. MOORE: And, also, in Southwest

1 Detroit, I noticed there's like a 400 percent increase  
2 in nonfatal shootings. You say a gang --

3 CHIEF CRAIG: 400.

4 COMM. MOORE: 400 percent. It's been  
5 400 percent, between 350 and 400 percent over like the  
6 last month and a half.

7 CHIEF CRAIG: I'm not certain of that.  
8 Can anybody elaborate?

9 MS. LAMAR: Are you talking the 4th Precinct?

10 COMM. MOORE: Yes, ma'am, nonfatal shootings  
11 over the past month and a half. It seems like it's  
12 between 50 percent.

13 MS. LAMAR: Yeah, we're at 10 for the year.

14 COMM. MOORE: Okay.

15 MS. LAMAR: Last year at this time we had 2.

16 COMM. MOORE: Okay.

17 MS. LAMAR: Yeah, we had an extremely busy  
18 January. Not connected, really, though, so --

19 COMM. MOORE: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

20 CHIEF CRAIG: Yeah. Through the Chair, you  
21 know, first quarter can be somewhat misleading, the  
22 percentage can go high and the numbers are usually  
23 smaller. I become greatly concerned with the numbers  
24 when we're at the end of the second quarter. Of  
25 course, you're going into the summer months, then.

1 And, if you lose the second quarter, it's usually an  
2 indication of what the rest of the year look like.  
3 We're fortunate that we are overall down in crime.

4 One of the areas that continues to be a -- I  
5 guess, a sweet spot is the fact that the decline in  
6 robberies and carjackings still continue. And so that  
7 does -- typically does drive violent crime because it's  
8 more incidents of robbery. But, again, when you're  
9 talking about shootings, nonfatal and homicide, those  
10 always cause concern.

11 There is some things we're going to be doing  
12 in the coming weeks as it relates to detective staffing  
13 at the precinct level so that we can be more efficient  
14 and effective in investigation in our nonfatal  
15 shootings because they are investigated at the precinct  
16 level.

17 CHAIR BELL: Chief, I just want to commend  
18 our SRT unit, I think, last week for a barricaded  
19 gunman situation in my neighborhood. And the community  
20 was pleased that it really worked out, no shots fired  
21 and the young man was apprehended after so many hours  
22 of being sequestered in the house. So I want to  
23 commend Commander Barren who always do a good job. And  
24 people look at those type -- those are not easy to  
25 handle --

1 CHIEF CRAIG: Yes.

2 CHAIR BELL: -- you know. So they were on  
3 top of the game, in terms of working it out and talking  
4 the person out without shots fired.

5 CHIEF CRAIG: To the Chair, and I appreciate  
6 that. As I pointed out, the stand-off was in excess of  
7 eight hours. Certainly, this was an individual who had  
8 exhibited significant violent behavior that resulted in  
9 SRT being called from the initial response of the  
10 officers, the incident involving the neighbor. I did  
11 note that, during this eight-hour period, 40 canisters  
12 of tear gas were deployed, did not affect the  
13 individual at all. So he hadn't slept for three days.  
14 And so, certainly, it was a recipe for a tragic  
15 outcome. But again, this SRT did a phenomenal job, as  
16 they do in every case, so thank you for that.

17 COMM. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir. Through the  
18 Chair.

19 Yes, sir, Chief, unfortunately it was some  
20 media reporting on some officers who, unfortunately --  
21 well, a couple convicted and maybe a couple arrested.  
22 There was an incident that was reported in the media  
23 about an officer who was arrested in Monroe County two  
24 months ago and the arrest was for OUIL.

25 My concern is will she refer to your peer

1 group, in terms of if there is an issue with alcohol.  
2 If not, you know, if you can elaborate on it, reaching  
3 out to her in case there, you know, is something there  
4 pertaining to something outside of the actual what was  
5 reported in the papers, just an arrest for OUIL.

6 CHIEF CRAIG: Right. Through the Chair,  
7 we've done that. In fact, the concerned employee, on  
8 her own, has sought help and will be going through  
9 treatment.

10 COMM. CRAWFORD: Okay, sir.

11 CHAIR BELL: Yes?

12 MS. LAMAR: Through the Chair, Bridget Lamar,  
13 Executive Manager for Human Resources, responsible for  
14 Police Medical. The peer support has reached out and,  
15 as you said, we do have -- we have engaged her with our  
16 occupational health providers and she will be provided  
17 with the support that she needs.

18 CHAIR BELL: Thank you.

19 Any other question or comments?

20 The next item -- thank you, Chief.

21 CHIEF CRAIG: Thank you.

22 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, I appreciate that --  
23 would be hearing from our Chief Investigator Pamela  
24 Davis-Drake at OCI. She can take the mic.

25 Mr. Brown, do we have cards for those who

1 want to speak?

2 We have a format, I guess it's like the third  
3 week, so we're going to circulate cards. If you would  
4 put your name on it and we'll get to that time,  
5 Mr. Brown will be calling you in that order in terms of  
6 how we're going to flow with the public part of the  
7 dialogue.

8 So now we're going to hear from Pamela  
9 Davis-Drake, our Chief Investigator.

10 CI DRAKE: Good afternoon, for -- for the  
11 record, Pamela Davis Drake, Chief Investigator. I am  
12 going to go over the stats for January of 2017.

13 We currently have -- as of today, we have 159  
14 cases that are open and active, four of those cases  
15 have been either assigned to myself or passed on to a  
16 supervisor for case closure. And we have no cases that  
17 are currently over 90 days.

18 For January of 2017, we had 85 cases that  
19 were filed, which represents a 7 percent decrease in  
20 the number of cases in comparison to last year in the  
21 same month. At the end of January, we had a total of  
22 171 open investigations, 85 cases were closed -- or I'm  
23 sorry -- 85 cases were filed and 88 cases were closed.

24 Eighty-five cases -- of those 85 cases, they  
25 involved -- 41 percent involved unknown officers. The

1 alleged known units involving the allegations were 8th  
2 Precinct at 7 percent; 6th Precinct at 7 percent; and  
3 the 12th Precinct at 6 percent.

4 Of those 85 cases filed, 153 allegations were  
5 a result of that. The areas of concern were  
6 specifically procedure at 28 percent; demeanor at  
7 24 percent; service at 20 percent; and force at  
8 7 percent.

9 88 cases were closed in January. They  
10 involved allegations where the findings were as  
11 follows:

12 Not sustained, 45 percent; unfounded,  
13 17 percent; sustained at 11 percent; and exonerated at  
14 9 percent.

15 The leading areas of concern in those 88  
16 cases were as follows:

17 Procedure at 39 percent; demeanor at  
18 30 percent; service at 9 percent; and force at  
19 7 percent.

20 And that concludes my report. I am happy to  
21 take any questions at this time.

22 CHAIR BELL: Commissioners?

23 Thank you for an outstanding report. You  
24 must be doing something right.

25 CI DRAKE: Thank you, sir.

1 CHAIR BELL: No comments. Appreciate it.

2 CI DRAKE: I'm sorry, sir. One other added  
3 little tidbit.

4 CHAIR BELL: Yes, ma'am?

5 CI DRAKE: Just -- I know you know this  
6 already but we also will be going out to train one  
7 additional class at the recruiting.

8 CHAIR BELL: Yes.

9 CI DRAKE: Class 2017C, I believe it is. And  
10 that is going to be on the 13th. And, certainly,  
11 Commissioner Bell does an outstanding job but it's  
12 always nice when other commissioners also participate.  
13 It's good to see those classes and the classes really  
14 do appreciate us coming out. And the Department does a  
15 great job in training them. So we want to make sure we  
16 do our part as well. So --

17 CHAIR BELL: Thank you.

18 CI DRAKE: Thank you, sir.

19 CHAIR BELL: Thank you.

20 The next item of business would be the Law  
21 Department. Mr. Butch Hollowell, please.

22 MR. HOLLOWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
23 Chief. I have also with me Jerry Ashford, who is the  
24 head of Litigation at the Law Department. And I just  
25 wanted this opportunity to be able to give you a

1 snapshot of where we are as it relates to DPD  
2 litigation and just kind of fast-forwarding to the end,  
3 it's a really good trend.

4 I will, if I might, just take a point of  
5 personal privilege. I just left the Federal courthouse  
6 where we celebrated the 30th annual Judge Damon Keith's  
7 Soul Food Luncheon. And Judge Craig Strong was the  
8 awardee this year.

9 Judge Keith, at 94 years old, is still an  
10 icon in this community for justice. And I just wanted  
11 to say that it was an honor to be a part of that  
12 program. I assisted in that program, and federal  
13 judges that flew in from all over the country. It was  
14 a great celebration of civil rights here during Black  
15 History Month. So just a shout out to Judge Keith.

16 CHAIR BELL: Thank you for sharing that.

17 MR. HOLLOWELL: Yes.

18 CHAIR BELL: Because, you know, Judge Keith  
19 made a tremendous ruling in reference to affirmative  
20 action in the Detroit Police Department, historically.  
21 And people have a tendency not to be aware but he's a  
22 legendary living history. I just wish him many, many  
23 more years. And thank you for sharing that with us.

24 MR. HOLLOWELL: Thank you for allowing me to  
25 share that.

1                   And so, Jerry, why don't you join me up here.

2                   So we'll go to the second slide. We -- we  
3                   had the -- as soon as the first year that I got sworn  
4                   in as Corporation Counsel, the Chief and I and others  
5                   had to deal with the fact that we still were under a  
6                   DOJ oversight. And, during the period of that eleven  
7                   years -- it was eleven years that there was oversight.  
8                   I think it started during the Archer administration --  
9                   there were a number of protocols that got put in place  
10                  as it relates to Constitutional policing. And we're  
11                  very proud to serve as the lawyers for the Police  
12                  Department, for its brave men and women.

13                  During that period, we put in place certain  
14                  protocols that have now become best practices across  
15                  the country that we believe, at the Law Department, is  
16                  directly related to what you're going to see at the  
17                  very end as to where litigation is going.

18                  But Barb McQuade, the U.S. Attorney, and I  
19                  sat down and agreed that we would file a joint motion  
20                  in front of the Federal Court, saying we have long past  
21                  become a Constitutional policing entity. And Judge  
22                  Cohen, who took over the case from Judge Cook, granted  
23                  our motion on August 26 of 2014, terminated the  
24                  Department of Justice oversight. Put in place after  
25                  that -- we worked with AC White, in particular, and

1 Celia Washington on this transition agreement. That,  
2 we were -- we were paying, by the way, the court  
3 monitor \$86,000 a month, \$86,000 a month in that.

4 On March 2nd of 2016, the transition period  
5 ended and then I think Judge Cohen said it all but he  
6 said, "The fact is that, after more than a decade of  
7 reform efforts under the Consent Judgment, the DPD's  
8 use of force practices have fundamentally improved and  
9 are now consistent with Constitutional policing  
10 standards." Next slide, please.

11 So some of the protocols that got put in  
12 place, that, again, we see every day that helps us, is  
13 the 40 hours of annual in-service training, standards  
14 for police stops, developments in criminal justice law,  
15 which is changing all of the time, all of the time.

16 At Judge Keith's soul food luncheon, Judge  
17 Craig Strong was saying, when he got his award, that,  
18 at the time, he had sentenced a woman who had -- she  
19 was 16 years old. She had shot her mother and he  
20 sentenced her to life without parole. And he said,  
21 "You know, one of the great tragedies here is that,  
22 because of what you've done, nobody's ever going to  
23 visit you in prison for -- for the rest of your life."

24 Well, the law changed and so, with 16 -- with  
25 minors, now you had to go to more individualized

1 sentencing, as opposed to having sentencing guidelines  
2 govern everything.

3 She came back in front of Judge Strong. She  
4 led the prison ministry. She had gotten her degree.  
5 She was remorseful. And so he was able to allow her,  
6 after 34 years, to say, "Okay, you know, for -- you're  
7 all right for time served." He said, "Did anyone visit  
8 you in your 34 years in prison?"

9 And she said, "No, not a single one."

10 So the law changes. And we have to keep up  
11 with that, and so that -- keep up with police  
12 standards. We have an early intervention system, it's  
13 management awareness database. It tracks police  
14 officer activities, flags certain things, like crashes,  
15 meritorious write-ups, civil litigations, use of force,  
16 citizen complaints.

17 Five sick calls or no shows to court and, of  
18 course, you know, my office prosecutes the cases over  
19 at 36th District Court. I've got 14 lawyers over  
20 there.

21 The compliance accountability unit, staffed  
22 by civilian auditors, they key in certain words, you  
23 know, such as "force", et cetera, to see what you see.  
24 And then you can head off a problem before it becomes  
25 too big.

1                   And then, of course, the civil rights  
2 integrity bureau that monitors best practices. Next  
3 slide.

4                   And so the standard for Federal claims: So  
5 where can we be sued? We can be sued in Federal Court  
6 or we can be sued in State court. In Federal cases,  
7 these are generally brought under what's called 42 USC,  
8 Section 1983 cases, which are color of law cases. As a  
9 general rule, these are Fourth Amendment cases,  
10 wouldn't you say?

11                   MR. ASHFORD: Mostly.

12                   MR. HOLLOWELL: Yeah. So these are mostly  
13 Fourth Amendment, illegal search and seizure cases.  
14 So, even if the handcuffs were too tight or they say  
15 that there was excessive force, with respect to  
16 effecting an arrest, they'll say that was a seizure.  
17 Okay?

18                   And so we do have our officers who are  
19 entitled to qualified immunity but under certain  
20 circumstances. So Jerry and the rest of our litigators  
21 would have to go into Federal Court and prove certain  
22 things. Was the Constitutional right well-established  
23 that a reasonable person should have known? So, you  
24 know, entering someplace without a warrant, I mean, you  
25 should know that that's a Constitutional standard.

1                   And I would also bring out, unlike the police  
2                   department, the Prosecutor's office is absolutely  
3                   immuned from liability. So, while we have qualified  
4                   immunity, the prosecutor's office has absolute  
5                   immunity. Next slide.

6                   So these are State claims. So let's say  
7                   those claims have been brought against the City in  
8                   Wayne County Circuit Court, mostly likely.

9                   Do we have any that are brought in Macomb  
10                  Circuit or Oakland Circuit?

11                  MR. ASHFORD: No.

12                  MR. HOLLOWELL: Okay. So only in Wayne  
13                  Circuit cases. And then we are under this Michigan  
14                  Supreme Court case, Odom versus Wayne County, the  
15                  City's liable for, essentially, intentional torts or  
16                  gross negligence. So you have to say, "Is the officer  
17                  acting within the scope of their duties? Was it a  
18                  discretionary act? And was there --" here's the key  
19                  thing: "Was there malice or ill will?" They have to  
20                  prove all of those things. So all of our lawyers will  
21                  partner with the Police Department. We'll go through  
22                  all of the aspects of this and we'll be able to make a  
23                  determination. Next slide.

24                  So this is kind of a snapshot that I wanted  
25                  you to see. And, basically, this is a six-year

1 snapshot. You can see, in 2011, so in the white are  
2 the Federal 1983 claims and in the orange are the State  
3 claims. So you can see the general trend. We went  
4 into bankruptcy -- next slide.

5 We went into bankruptcy -- and the next slide  
6 after that.

7 Yeah, there we go. So on July 18th of 2013,  
8 now, the courts made a ruling. So, when Judge -- when  
9 the -- when the judge that took the case -- it affected  
10 litigation.

11 And Jerry, do you want to say what happened  
12 in the ADR cases and the like?

13 MR. ASHFORD: Yes. The Court made a ruling  
14 that individual police officers did not file for  
15 bankruptcy. So, therefore, any cases that they were  
16 involved in would not be dismissed based on the  
17 bankruptcy.

18 So, for example, in July 2013, as a  
19 litigator, I had 35 federal police cases. After the  
20 bankruptcy, I still had those 35 police cases because  
21 they involved individual police officers. You -- you  
22 cannot recover damages against the City of Detroit but  
23 you could recover damages against the individual  
24 officers.

25 MR. HOLLOWELL: And next slide.

1                   And so this one also tracks the 19 months  
2                   before our bankruptcy, January 1, 2012 through July 18  
3                   of 2013. So it's a -- I wanted you to see a 19-month  
4                   span before our bankruptcy and after bankruptcy. So  
5                   some of this is -- is the best practices, I believe,  
6                   are kicking in and you can see the results of that.  
7                   Next slide, please.

8                   24 percent decrease, 61 percent decrease and  
9                   at 19 months before and after Snapshot. There -- next  
10                  slide.

11                  There were certain instances in which the  
12                  courts would allow certain Federal claims or State  
13                  claims to proceed, so very, very few. But, depending  
14                  on the type of case and the judge involved, there were  
15                  a few cases that were allowed to be filed.

16                  Now, here are the payouts I wanted you to  
17                  see. We're unlike any other city in the state. So, in  
18                  the City of Detroit, we don't have insurance. So  
19                  Grand Rapids has liability insurance and Flint has  
20                  liability insurance and Lansing and other cities, they  
21                  have insurance. We're so big, we don't have insurance.

22                  And so what's important to understand is that  
23                  every dollar that is paid out in a police case or a bus  
24                  case or a Water Department case is a dollar that comes  
25                  right out of the general fund, right out of the general

1 fund. And so that's why we put so much time and  
2 attention.

3 Our staff is now up to 105. And so we've --  
4 we've really beefed up -- we beefed up our resources  
5 and we have a new attitude. You know, we're trying  
6 these cases. We're pushing back very hard on these  
7 cases, sometimes, that were maybe just settled too  
8 quickly. But we're putting in the work to do the  
9 depositions, the Motions for Discovery.

10 And so the people understand that, if you're  
11 going to file a claim, you're going to have, as is our  
12 Charter duty, to defend you vigorously. Because what's  
13 at stake is every dollar that's paid out is a dollar  
14 less for a police officer or a dollar less for better  
15 sidewalks or a dollar less for firefighting equipment  
16 and the like.

17 So I wanted you to see some of the payouts.  
18 You see here the DPW number is, obviously, the largest  
19 number. That's -- those are the bus cases. And I can  
20 get a little bit more into that.

21 What -- what helps one is, you know, having  
22 transit officers on the buses; that's helpful. Number  
23 two, having cameras on the bus; that is also very, very  
24 helpful. Typically, when you look back over, you know,  
25 let's say, a 15- to 20-year period, we've typically

1           seen a balance of a third, a third, a third. So, when  
2           we look at, you know, where are the payouts coming, you  
3           know, a third from Department of Transportation or bus  
4           cases, a third from sidewalk cases and a third from  
5           police cases. But those numbers have -- have been  
6           shifting around.

7                         And one of the reasons that you see the bus  
8           cases also expanding is there was a Supreme Court  
9           ruling that allowed for medical providers to join the  
10          case along with the Plaintiff. So it could be, instead  
11          of having one person file a claim, you've now got 10 or  
12          12 people that are in there. So those are 10 or 12  
13          depositions, 10 or 12 sets of Interrogatories. And it  
14          really has expanded exposure in those bus cases. Next  
15          slide.

16                        Again, here you can see DPD is the largest,  
17          and that was in 2015. And -- and that was larger than  
18          the DOT at that time. But the story continues. Next  
19          slide.

20                        Let's look at 2016 payouts and compare to  
21          2015, as things began to really change. So here you  
22          have DPW at 720, Fire at 455, DWSD -- next slide.

23                        Here, then, you're starting to see Department  
24          of Transportation, that Supreme Court ruling beginning  
25          to have its impact. And look at -- over at the -- to

1 the right, you'll see, with DPD, it's now down to  
2 4.9 million, where the year before it was at 7.3. 4.9  
3 compared to 7.3. Why?

4 And, again, I go back to those first two  
5 slides that I talked about, those protocols kicking in,  
6 better Constitutional policing, better community  
7 policing. So we're seeing those in the numbers.

8 Now, it isn't a one-for-one. It isn't  
9 necessarily that all of the cases, you know, are filed  
10 at the same time. We know there's a Statute of  
11 Limitations. Some of the cases could have been  
12 lingering for years and then they just get around to  
13 filing.

14 What's the Statute of Limitations for Section  
15 1983 cases?

16 MR. ASHFORD: Three years.

17 MR. HOLLOWELL: So three-year Statute of  
18 Limitation for a Federal claim against the Police  
19 Department. So some of those cases could have been  
20 three years old and in the system. And then maybe they  
21 filed the case and it had winded its way down.

22 And how long would you say is the average  
23 length of -- once somebody files a case, to the time  
24 that we're finished, based on the docket that we have  
25 over at the Federal courthouse; how long would you say

1 on average?

2 MR. ASHFORD: Generally, two years.

3 MR. HOLLOWELL: Two years?

4 MR. ASHFORD: (Nods head.)

5 MR. HOLLOWELL: Okay. Next slide.

6 So this is -- I wanted you to see a snapshot  
7 of -- so the Department -- that should say in that blue  
8 Department of Transportation at 3,175,000. And the  
9 orange, which would be police, at 7,300,000; and that's  
10 2015. That's -- again, that would have been 66 percent  
11 compared to 29 percent. Next slide.

12 Okay. But, in 2016, things flipped, things  
13 flipped. So the Department of Transportation had an  
14 11 million in payouts, at 62 percent of the total  
15 payouts of the City; DPD was at 4.9 million, at  
16 28 percent. Next slide.

17 So, when you look at the -- the comparisons  
18 side-by-side from the 2015 to 2016 -- and the next --  
19 next slide.

20 And let's see the arrow.

21 This is the bottom line. So what we're  
22 seeing is a fairly significant drop in police  
23 litigation, 31.9 percent decrease, Chief and Chairman,  
24 from 2015 to 2016. I think we -- we deserve a little  
25 bit of credit here for it at the Law Department. But

1 we also want to give the credit where it lies with  
2 better community policing and outstanding work by  
3 the -- by the Police Department. So those numbers are  
4 very significant, very significant.

5 You know, so when you're talking, you know, a  
6 \$3 million difference, and that's -- again, \$3 million  
7 that is available for other core City services. So  
8 that's just a brief snapshot. I just wanted to keep  
9 you up to date. I hope I would be able to come to you  
10 on a regular basis, a quarterly basis, semi-annual  
11 basis, and give you reports on where we are as -- as it  
12 goes on during the year.

13 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, sir.

14 Before we open it up to the Commissioners for  
15 any questions or concern, I just wanted to recognize  
16 Commissioner Conrad Mallet has joined us about ten  
17 minutes ago.

18 Good to see you this afternoon.

19 COMM. MALLET: Thank you, sir.

20 CHAIR BELL: And, also, I'd like to  
21 acknowledge the President of DPOA, Martin Diaz, is in  
22 the audience. Thank you for your attendance.

23 And Commissioners, any questions or comments?

24 COMM. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir, through the Chair.  
25 And I see Commissioner Mallet chose to sit down there.

1 He didn't want to sit next to me.

2 COMM. MALLET: No, I'm sorry. I tried to get  
3 in as gracefully and quietly as possible.

4 COMM. CRAWFORD: I'm just kidding.

5 Yes, sir, Corporation Counsel, you know, to  
6 be exact, \$3,341,435.73 is the difference in the  
7 lawsuit payouts. I want to thank you, sir, for  
8 bringing this information to us. I've been asking, I  
9 guess, about three years now. Many years ago, when  
10 there was a different City Counsel had this information  
11 annually and I was able to go to the City Council and  
12 hear these type of litigation payouts.

13 And, as you stated, it does affect the  
14 Department, in terms of equipment and resources. And  
15 so many other areas -- and also other City -- and other  
16 areas of the City, in terms of what these monies can be  
17 used for.

18 Thank you and your attorneys for the  
19 reduction, in terms of representing the City but also  
20 to the department, in terms of what was put in place  
21 and what's being done now, in terms of reducing this  
22 type of litigation costs, payouts, so to speak.

23 I'm so glad the president of DPOA is here to  
24 hear this, too. Because it's so important to take it  
25 back to his membership, which is something, for years,

1 I advocated under previous leadership of the DPOA, that  
2 they hear these type of numbers, and in terms of what  
3 we could save, you know, whenever possible, in terms of  
4 sometimes litigation that possibly could have been  
5 prevented.

6 So thank you again, sir.

7 MR. HOLLOWELL: Thank you, Commissioner. I  
8 really appreciate that. And, you know, there is a  
9 different attitude as -- as Mr. Ashford has taken over  
10 the Litigation Department.

11 We're making it a lot tougher for people, you  
12 know, who are filing suits here. And it's a  
13 combination of that, along with better police work.  
14 And, as I said, I will -- I'd be happy to come back on  
15 a regular basis and provide you with these kinds of  
16 periodic updates.

17 CHAIR BELL: Commissioners?

18 COMM. MOORE: Through the Chair. I'd ask  
19 Mr. Attorney, settlements at trail, how do we get to  
20 these numbers; are these settlements?

21 MR. HOLLOWELL: These are payouts. So these  
22 are settlements. And so --

23 Are any -- do we have any verdicts that are  
24 in -- in these numbers or are all of these settlements  
25 approved by City Council?

1 MR. ASHFORD: Those would be the settlements  
2 approved by City Council.

3 MR. HOLLOWELL: So no verdicts are in there.

4 COMM. MOORE: Okay.

5 MR. HOLLOWELL: Yeah.

6 COMM. MOORE: And my second question: What's  
7 up with DDOT?

8 MR. HOLLOWELL: Well, you know, we're doing  
9 with DDOT what we're doing with the Police Department.  
10 We have a very close relationship, you know, with our  
11 clients and we're going to have even a closer  
12 relationship, you know. The truth is Detroit is the  
13 target very often of predatory lawyering. I said it.  
14 You know, the 1-800-Sue Me billboards are everywhere.  
15 And this affects our auto insurance rates, it affects  
16 everything. And so we see that in sidewalk cases, we  
17 see that in bus cases.

18 You could have been in Cleveland. But, if  
19 there was a bus accident on Chene, you said, "I was on  
20 that bus." And so -- you know, so the cameras -- the  
21 cameras help with all of that, the better training with  
22 all that, having an officer on board and all that. So  
23 we -- we're working very closely. And we also are  
24 hoping to -- we're looking forward to a ruling from the  
25 Supreme Court which has taken up the case of --

1 remember I was telling you that now medical providers  
2 also can get into the -- into the case?

3 So we're hoping that the Supreme Court makes  
4 a decision on that relatively soon. We refiled a brief  
5 in the Supreme Court on this case. And that would cut  
6 down on the number as well.

7 So we're working at it.

8 COMM. MOORE: Thank you, sir. I appreciate  
9 it.

10 MR. HOLLOWELL: Thank you, Commissioner.

11 CHAIR BELL: Any other comments,  
12 Commissioners?

13 COMM. MALLET: Mr. Chairman, if I might.

14 Mr. Hollowell, the -- I get, occasionally,  
15 from the Chief Investigator's Office, incident reports  
16 involving officers. And sometimes I notice that I see  
17 an officer's name in these reports once or twice. And  
18 I wonder if you had a recommendation. How ought we be  
19 managing -- or what response would you suggest that we  
20 have, either from a managerial point of view from the  
21 Chief's office or from the Commission's point of view,  
22 when there's an officer in one of these reports and  
23 this is the fourth or fifth time that we've got a  
24 citizen complaint?

25 Nothing dramatic but, you know, it's

1 demeanor, it was a number of things that would result  
2 in a verifiable citizen complaint, no physical violence  
3 or anything like that. But I just wonder if the -- if  
4 the number of these kinds of citizen allegations  
5 complicate your -- your management of these issues, if  
6 one of those officers is involved in something  
7 consequential.

8 MR. HOLLOWELL: As a member of the -- former  
9 member of the Supreme Court, you asked -- you touched  
10 it with a needle, Justice Mallet. Software tracking is  
11 really the best way to do that. You know, I have my  
12 own system. I purchased a system called City Law. And  
13 that does exactly what you're saying on my side.

14 So I can track how many hours every lawyer  
15 has put in every day and on what matters. I can find  
16 out what their average caseload is. So I can tell you  
17 if one lawyer's got a caseload of 60 files and one's  
18 got 30 files, something's going on there. It could be  
19 that certain cases are more complicated than others, so  
20 that's why they have less.

21 But I can tell where -- what is coming in the  
22 door, why it's coming in the door. And that allows me  
23 to be prophylactic, in the sense of I can get on the  
24 phone with the Department head and say, "Here's some  
25 issues that we're seeing coming out of this particular

1 area."

2 With respect to, let's say, the police  
3 officer that had X number of complaints, that is where  
4 that early intervention system should really be kicking  
5 in. Because, when they key in certain words, such as  
6 "deescalation", such as "use of force", such as  
7 "civilian complaint", it should be a flag to say,  
8 "Let's bring this person in and find out what's going  
9 on."

10 In the end, we will sign off, as President  
11 Diaz knows, you know, and as the Chairman and the Chief  
12 knows, we'll sign off on defending the police officer  
13 and the City, but only after we do a vetting, a very --  
14 you know, a set of vetting with -- with Doug Baker, who  
15 now is the Chairman of our Criminal Division. Most  
16 famous prosecutor in the State now works for me as the  
17 head of our Criminal Division. He'll look at each  
18 individual case.

19 So you want to try to spot those kinds of  
20 things on an earlier basis. I think the key word  
21 "spotting" in that software is vitally important. It's  
22 vitally important. It's one of the things that the  
23 Department of Justice looked at when they agreed to  
24 grant our motion to terminate the eleven-year  
25 oversight, that we were going to put software in place.

1           As I understand it, they brought in a number  
2 of former auditors from General Motors that were  
3 working on this system. That system has got to be in  
4 place, it's got to be working. You know, it's an early  
5 flagging system. That's the best -- that is the best  
6 thing.

7           Second thing is -- and as Celia Washington  
8 can tell you, you know, we're also always available for  
9 training, whether it's at roll call or at other areas,  
10 you know, as it relates to changes in the law or things  
11 that we should be doing, best practices in -- on our  
12 side, in terms of defense -- police defense work, we're  
13 available to do that. And we want to do that even  
14 more.

15           I met with the Chief and his command staff.  
16 And what I've asked him, as I do Tom Awan, who heads up  
17 Economic Development and Dan Durks who heads up DDOT  
18 and Gary Brown over at Water, I ask for a grade based  
19 on our representation of you, as our clients. I want  
20 to know how are we doing, you know.

21           And so all of that helps to get the best  
22 representation possible for the people of the City of  
23 Detroit. It helps, I think, also in making sure that  
24 we're doing the best Constitutional policing.

25           COMM. MALLETT: Thank you.

1 CHAIR BELL: Commissioner Crawford?

2 COMM. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir, through the Chair,  
3 in a moment I'll yield my ignorance to the Chief or  
4 someone else who wants to expound on the system.  
5 Because we always have a system in place at the Detroit  
6 Police Department that does pretty much, if not more,  
7 than what you expounded on, sir.

8 It's so important to realize that, prior to  
9 what you engaged in, our Corporation Counsel, is the  
10 litigation that, on the front end, it happens within  
11 the Department. And it's apparently obvious, with the  
12 decrease, not only I can say jointly, the Department  
13 and -- and your Progressive litigation, so to speak,  
14 but it's just so important that, in the system where  
15 you have the accountability, you should have the  
16 transparency.

17 And Commissioner Mallet asked a very good  
18 question. Because that's been brought or discussed  
19 before this table before over the last couple years, in  
20 terms of, you know, individuals whose names may appear  
21 over and over and over again. And so I think the --  
22 everything's in place to address that. It's apparent,  
23 somewhat, it has been. And I'm sure, in the future,  
24 there will be more, you know, stepped-up enforcement,  
25 one might say.

1 But I'd yield to anyone else in the  
2 Department who wants to expound on that. Because  
3 they --

4 MR. ASHFORD: Let me just say --

5 COMM. CRAWFORD: Like I said, they have more  
6 knowledge, in terms of the system that is in place.  
7 And I've heard a great deal about it, also.

8 MR. ASHFORD: I just wanted the Chief and the  
9 Commissioners to understand that the only way that the  
10 City can be liable for Constitutional violations is,  
11 really, custom policy and practice of failing to  
12 train --

13 COMM. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir.

14 MR. ASHFORD: -- hiring, disciplinary system.  
15 You got a rogue officer out there and the Department is  
16 not disciplining that officer --

17 COMM. CRAWFORD: Yes.

18 MR. ASHFORD: -- failing to investigate. All  
19 these things are really important; the systems of the  
20 Department --

21 COMM. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir.

22 MR. ASHFORD: -- that helps us, you know,  
23 curb litigation. And I also want to say, successful  
24 prosecution of criminal cases, it's super important.  
25 Officers appearing in court, officers bringing

1 evidence, as those cases are dismissed, we end up  
2 dealing with them on the backside because they are  
3 going to -- they're going to sue us. Okay?

4 In a lot of these police cases, probable  
5 cause is the big issue. I can, you know, pretty much  
6 cut through a police case, if I have -- I can defend it  
7 successfully if I have probable cause but I have to be  
8 able to show that.

9 And a lot of times these cases are just  
10 dismissed at 36th District Court in Wayne County and  
11 the lawyer's kind of handcuffed because, you know, the  
12 Police Department and the police officer did not bring  
13 evidence or did not appear at -- at trial or for the  
14 hearing. So I want to impress that upon the Chief and  
15 the -- the Chair.

16 COMM. CRAWFORD: Thank you.

17 CHAIR BELL: Commissioners, any other  
18 comments?

19 If not, thank you for an outstanding job, in  
20 terms of reporting out. And that would be great, in  
21 terms of quarterly reports, you know, updating.  
22 Because now we can speak to the issues and concerns of  
23 the community with facts, you know, in terms of things  
24 have declined. And, contrary to popular belief,  
25 Chief Craig is doing a good job --

1 MR. HOLLOWELL: That's right, outstanding  
2 job.

3 CHAIR BELL: -- I'll say that.

4 MR. HOLLOWELL: Outstanding job. And so we  
5 would be -- thank you. We will bring -- we will bring  
6 you these quarterly reports and happy to do so.

7 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, sir.

8 MR. HOLLOWELL: Thank you.

9 CHAIR BELL: I appreciate it.

10 MR. HOLLOWELL: Thank you.

11 MR. ASHFORD: Thank you.

12 CHAIR BELL: Okay.

13 And I just wanted to also recognize AC White  
14 and Deputy Chief Washington and Pam Drake and others  
15 who worked on getting us out -- and Chief Craig on  
16 getting us out from that significant bill that we was  
17 paying. And we came in on the tail end of it. And I  
18 know, when we viewed the hiring practice, that's why,  
19 Commissioners, we need to weigh in, to make sure we're  
20 making the right decision if that person should go  
21 forward after the Department has went through all the  
22 scrutiny, so there's some merits to that.

23 That's why we should be engaging, in terms of  
24 witnessing firsthand who has been the officers in the  
25 academy. It's not just a graduation but the officer.

1 We need to see that type of interaction. So that's why  
2 we go in the academy to witness that type of training  
3 and dialogue with the recruits. Because they need to  
4 understand the past, present and the future of how we  
5 have come a long way and they are going to be a  
6 significant part of it. I can't say that enough, in  
7 terms of the outlying training, you know, and  
8 prosecution of officers who -- to due process. But, if  
9 it's happening, you fall short to your Constitutional  
10 responsibilities, then they should be accountable.  
11 And, by all means, we want due process for all who  
12 might be charged, and we witnessed that just recently.

13 So we can move on. The next presenter would  
14 be Retired Police Officer John Bennett, who just  
15 recently retired. He also was a CORE -- Co-Chair of  
16 the Committee of CORE. And he's going to come forward  
17 at this time. Oh, there.

18 Okay. Thank you, sir. I know I spotted you  
19 earlier.

20 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, I had to get my laptop.

21 CHAIR BELL: No problem. Can we assist you  
22 with your laptop?

23 MR. BENNETT: No, I got it.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you want to take my  
25 job?

1 MR. BENNETT: Good afternoon.

2 THE COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

3 MR. BENNETT: First of all, let me thank you  
4 for the opportunity to come before this body. Thanks  
5 to the Board and all the officials here.

6 As you know, and just stated, I retired last  
7 August. I retired last August. But, unfortunately,  
8 I'm not retired yet, I guess.

9 What I wanted to do is -- I mentioned some  
10 things in my letter I sent to you all. But what I  
11 wanted to do today is kind of give you a frame of what  
12 we did as a Committee. There's been a lot of things  
13 said. Many things inaccurate have been stated. So  
14 what I felt I needed to do is to give you the scope of  
15 what our job was, from my perspective, in representing  
16 the Committee from the Committee's perspective.

17 In addition to that, I kind of want to give  
18 you a holistic perspective, perspective let's say,  
19 from -- on the police department and the City of  
20 Detroit from my perspective now as a citizen. I'm no  
21 longer a police officer.

22 Last January, I got a call from Chief Craig  
23 at home and he asked me to chair a committee he wanted  
24 to form. He said he had been to various precincts and  
25 he talked to officers and he was made aware that there

1 was some racial concerns. He said, in fact, he had  
2 been in one precinct where two officers nearly came to  
3 fisticuffs.

4 Originally, when he brought it to my  
5 attention, I was reluctant to do this. After giving it  
6 some thought, I agreed that I would do this. But I had  
7 some parameters that I thought would be important if I  
8 was going to do this. One of those was I didn't want  
9 this to be some type of media roll-out event. I didn't  
10 want that to be a part of what we were doing. I  
11 thought that was important not to do that.

12 The second thing was, whatever  
13 recommendations we came up with, you know, I needed to  
14 know that those recommendations were going to be put in  
15 place; that was important. And, third, and -- it was  
16 important that I have Joe Weekley as my Co-Chair. I  
17 wanted Joe Weekley as my Co-Chair. That was my  
18 recommendation; that he be the Co-Chair.

19 So we had an orientation in this room in  
20 February with the Chief. He brought all the parties  
21 together. I think there were originally maybe 25 or 30  
22 people in the room. He laid out what he wanted us to  
23 do. He left the rest up to the Committee.

24 Shortly after that, having nothing to do with  
25 what he presented to us, we had a situation where an

1 officer from Number 5 posted something on Facebook  
2 related to the Super Bowl and the Klan and all that  
3 kind of stuff. However, this process was in place  
4 prior to that happening. The Chief had come to me and  
5 presented it. I thought it was very proactive on his  
6 part to present that. And we were moving in that  
7 direction. So that had nothing to do with the  
8 officer's postings on Facebook.

9 I should pause parenthetically there and say  
10 that there were several occasions last year where  
11 officers posted things on social media. We dealt with  
12 those as we went forward.

13 Let me also say I think I'm accurate in  
14 saying this: I was the last police officer on this  
15 Police Department to be fired for social media  
16 activity. That was in 2003. I think it's important to  
17 state that.

18 So, when we -- when we began our process,  
19 what we wanted to do is -- is go to every precinct,  
20 talk to each party we could talk to and tell them what  
21 we were doing.

22 If my PowerPoint will work right here. Let's  
23 see if it will work or not. It's not working. Well,  
24 I'll just leave it, I won't even --

25 So what we did was the Committee got

1 together. We, as a committee, went around the table  
2 and we talked to everybody at the Committee table about  
3 what the concerns were. We listed those concerns out,  
4 what the racial concerns were. All -- everything we  
5 dealt with wasn't related to race; it was related to  
6 gender, there were transgender issues, there were many  
7 issues that were put on the table that we were going to  
8 look at to address.

9           Shortly after that, Joe Weekley and myself  
10 began to go out and make the rounds. We went to more  
11 than 40 roll calls. We talked to numerous officers. I  
12 had officers call me at home, officers that's still  
13 calling me at home. We had side bars with officers in  
14 the Precinct. We met with the Chief on a monthly basis  
15 to bring him up to speed on where we were in this  
16 process. Every step along the way, we made the Chief  
17 aware of where we were, of what the findings were, what  
18 our recommendations were possibly going to be and we  
19 moved forward.

20           Now, I should also say the Committee ended up  
21 being roughly about 15 members. We sat at the table  
22 biweekly together, as a committee, and decided what we  
23 were going to do; every process, everything we went  
24 through line-by-line, as a committee, discussing each  
25 individual issue, each recommendation. We did that as

1 a Committee throughout the summer. We spent eight  
2 months, throughout last summer, going through this  
3 process as a committee, not as an individual, as a  
4 committee.

5 Once the recommendations were decided upon,  
6 once the PowerPoint was agreed to -- I wish it was  
7 working. I could show you guys at another point. Once  
8 it was agreed upon, we made our recommendations to the  
9 Chief. Joe and I, Joe Weekley and I, signed the  
10 document. We met with the Chief. We handed him the  
11 document. At that point, he asked me if I would report  
12 out at his retreat.

13 My last day of work was August 19th. My  
14 official retirement began August 22nd. The retreat was  
15 August 23rd. I went to the retreat and reported out  
16 the findings to his executives. That's not a sign of a  
17 disgruntled person because I was on my own time. So,  
18 after that, I was done with the Detroit Police  
19 Department, as of August 23rd. I was retired. I was  
20 done.

21 Well, fast-forward to January and I happened  
22 to turn on the TV to find out that, somehow, I was  
23 being disparaged. I was rogue, I was reckless, I was a  
24 loan ranger, I was all kind of adjectives which I could  
25 not understand.

1 Well, at that point, being the person that I  
2 am, I have to react in an appropriate way. And that's  
3 why I'm here today, to bring to closure all of this  
4 hearsay, this -- these accusations that have been made,  
5 these disparaging remarks that have been made, as it  
6 relates to my character, me acting alone.

7 We did a fine job, the Committee of 15, we --  
8 those of us in that room who were there for the right  
9 reason, we brought forward 19 good recommendations that  
10 we presented.

11 After I left in August, I had a conversation  
12 or two with the Chief where he made clear to me that  
13 CORE would go away and he had questions about the  
14 recommendations. So this is his baby and I'm retired.  
15 So there's nothing I can do about that.

16 But when January rolled around and somehow,  
17 you know, I was left under the bus, I couldn't figure  
18 out why that was. So I contacted you all in the need  
19 to come here before this Board and say to you that I  
20 did not act alone in this process. We did what we were  
21 asked to do. I gave the Chief a document that was  
22 signed by myself and the Co-Chair and I left the  
23 Department. Anything that occurred after that has  
24 absolutely nothing to do with me at all.

25 That said, let me say that, in closing,

1 Detroit is a unique place. What makes Detroit unique  
2 is a couple things; our citizens, the relationship we  
3 have with our citizens. The people of this city love  
4 their police department. You don't find across this  
5 country anyplace else like the City of Detroit in the  
6 relationship we have with the citizens.

7 When we had that situation with Baby Aiyana,  
8 you didn't see the days of rioting in the street that  
9 you see in some of these other cities. We don't have  
10 that here because we have a good relationship with our  
11 community. The reason for that is our community  
12 relations, which has been around for a long time; it  
13 didn't just start. It's been active, it's been  
14 proactive, it's been robust for a lot of years.

15 As a part of my dissertation process, I've  
16 been doing a lot of research. I've been looking at  
17 cities of Baltimore and Ferguson and some of the other  
18 cities and what makes them what they are and why they  
19 have the issues that we don't have. And it's very  
20 important to point out, because we have that  
21 relationship with citizens, we have that relationship  
22 with the community.

23 And this Board is very important to that  
24 process. This Board -- as you all know, this Board has  
25 been around since 1974. And it's very important to the

1 oversight of the Detroit Police Department. It's only  
2 just last year that Oakland California signed a -- or  
3 passed a bill to have a Board of Police Commissioners,  
4 just last year. In some places, people were trying to  
5 catch up to what we're doing, in terms of the oversight  
6 we have with our community. And I'm saying to you,  
7 that must continue. Because we run the risk of being a  
8 Baltimore or Ferguson if we take our thumb off this  
9 Police Department, if we allow things to happen that  
10 should not happen in this Police Department, if we  
11 allow things to be said that should not be said in this  
12 Police Department.

13 So I'm asking this Board, please keep your  
14 thumb on this Police Department. I do not want to see  
15 Baltimore, Ferguson, Chicago and some of these other  
16 things occur in this Police Department. This City's  
17 still 80 percent black; we can't lose sight of that.  
18 We have to keep in mind the people we are here to  
19 represent, and we can't lose site of that.

20 So, if we allow what has been presented to us  
21 years ago by Mayor Coleman Young in this Police  
22 Department to be torn away, to be eaten away, what are  
23 we going to have left? I'm now a citizen of this City,  
24 have been all my life. But I'm concerned about the  
25 direction we're headed with our police department. And

1 it's incumbent upon this Board to make sure that things  
2 are done in the best interest of the people of this  
3 city that's 80 percent black.

4 Thank you very much for your time.

5 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, sir.

6 Commissioners, questions or concerns?

7 COMM. MOORE: Through the Chair, Mr. Bennett,  
8 you started off saying there was three different  
9 things, a media roll-out event --

10 MR. BENNETT: Yeah. My parameters, when I  
11 decided to Chair the committee, was I didn't want this  
12 to be a media event. You know, I -- I felt like, you  
13 know, maybe this was just another -- a checkoff box of  
14 some large -- larger plan, and I didn't want to be a  
15 part of that. I did not -- I wanted Joe Weekley as my  
16 Co-Chair. I asked for Joe Weekley to be my Co-Chair.  
17 I thought those things were important, not having the  
18 media play a part in this.

19 And, as you found out in February of last  
20 year, unbeknownst to myself or Joe, there was a story  
21 printed in the Detroit News, for which we were not  
22 quoted in because we didn't interview with this person,  
23 about CORE. And, in that news article, the Chief said  
24 himself that he wanted CORE to look at racial problems  
25 within the Police Department and he hoped that, by CORE

1 being there, that we could mitigate some of those  
2 issues that the EEO was seeing as it related to race.

3 So I wanted this not to become a media  
4 spectacle. I wanted Joe as my Co-Chair. And I also  
5 wanted to make sure, whatever recommendations we put in  
6 place -- we asked for were put in place.

7 COMM. MOORE: That's my next question.

8 MR. BENNETT: Yes?

9 COMM. MOORE: A recommendation is just a  
10 recommendation.

11 MR. BENNETT: Just a recommendation.

12 COMM. MOORE: So, in essence, how -- I mean,  
13 can you elaborate on that? Because a recommendation,  
14 to me, is a recommendation.

15 MR. BENNETT: Absolutely. What we did, as a  
16 committee, we talked to a cross-section of police  
17 officers. We got their -- their -- their stories. We  
18 went out to precincts and we looked in these people's  
19 eyes and we told them we're going to give life to their  
20 stories. Because, to some, I mean, they feel like the  
21 Police Department is operating like, you know, in some  
22 kind of a system of apartheid. So we wanted to give  
23 life to their stories.

24 Even though African-Americans are the  
25 majority of this Department, they don't feel like that

1 way, they don't feel inclusive in what's taking place  
2 in the Police Department. So we wanted to give life to  
3 their stories.

4 But, once we made our recommendations,  
5 because, as the Chief said, and he's correct, we're not  
6 an investigative unit, we didn't have the Power of  
7 Garrity. But the Police Department, under the Chief,  
8 has the Power of Garrity, if he wanted to investigate.  
9 DPOA doesn't have the Power of Garrity. So I was a  
10 little taken back by this accusation that, somehow,  
11 there was reckless activity. Well, what did you  
12 investigate as related to our recommendations?

13 So we can only make recommendations; that's  
14 what we were asked to do. We did what we were charged  
15 with.

16 COMM. MOORE: And were there any officers  
17 that were white that had complaints to the Board?

18 MR. BENNETT: I talked to two officers that  
19 were white who complained. I talked to a Native  
20 American sergeant who I was able to get a meeting with  
21 the Chief about her issue. I talked to a Puerto Rican  
22 sergeant, Joe and I both talked to him, about his  
23 issues. But, before we could get his issues addressed,  
24 his commander was removed.

25 But one thing we didn't want to do in this

1 report, because we understood the retaliatory nature of  
2 things, we didn't want to pin a name to these people.  
3 And, as you've seen our report, there are no officers  
4 who are identified as telling their story in our  
5 report. Because we didn't want them to face  
6 retaliation from individuals within the Police  
7 Department.

8 COMM. MOORE: Thank you.

9 CHAIR BELL: Commissioners?

10 COMM. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir. Through the  
11 Chair, thanks, Mr. Bennett, for coming down. I heard  
12 so much from everybody else about you.

13 MR. BENNETT: Yes, sir.

14 COMM. CRAWFORD: To be truthful, I know you.  
15 We've known each other for years. I hadn't had no  
16 knowledge of this issue, other than you being the  
17 Co-Chair of CORE. I stated, at this table, a few  
18 times, I -- and I'll differ with you on your other  
19 Co-Chair, Joseph Weekley, I felt that was -- given the  
20 gravity of what occurred in this community in -- in his  
21 particular act, you know, against the community, I'll  
22 say that I had real -- I guess one might say real  
23 reservations about him being the Co-Chair of CORE.

24 But, again, I thank you for coming down and  
25 expressing, you know, from your perspective and, you

1 know, what has occurred here and giving us some and  
2 actually hearing from you.

3 Their -- well, DPOA is here, President  
4 Martin Diaz. I don't know where we are now in this  
5 policy grievance to ban CORE. I said at this table  
6 weeks ago and expressed how I feel about that on its  
7 face. I see it as somewhat discriminatory in itself,  
8 just a mere following that. You have membership in --  
9 within your union who -- who may want to reach out to  
10 an entity and feel comfortable, such as, you know, what  
11 you had in CORE.

12 So thank you.

13 CHAIR BELL: Commissioners?

14 COMM. CARTER: Through the Chair.

15 CHAIR BELL: Yes?

16 COMM. CARTER: Mr. Bennett, I just wanted to  
17 say thank you for coming down. I had heard some  
18 inkling that the Commission was aware of this report.  
19 And I just wanted to state, for the record, we were not  
20 aware, to my knowledge, of the report that you put out  
21 last year --

22 MR. BENNETT: Yes.

23 COMM. CARTER: -- until of recent. So I just  
24 wanted to put that out there. Because I know, at one  
25 point, there were -- there was some rumors that we knew

1 about the report.

2 MR. BENNETT: Okay.

3 COMM. CARTER: Thank you.

4 MR. BENNETT: Thank you.

5 CHAIR BELL: Any other commissioners?

6 Mr. Weekley -- I just want to -- Mr. Bennett,  
7 is Mr. Joe Weekley here?

8 MR. WEEKLY: Yes.

9 CHAIR BELL: Would you care to speak?

10 MR. WEEKLY: Only if you have questions for  
11 me, sir.

12 CHAIR BELL: I just offered to you --

13 Do we have any questions for Mr. Weekley? If  
14 not, we can -- thank you for your attendance.

15 MR. WEEKLY: Thank you.

16 CHAIR BELL: Okay. I just want to say that,  
17 are you pleased to know that CORE will continue?

18 MR. BENNETT: I heard about that. But let me  
19 be very frank --

20 CHAIR BELL: Yes, sir?

21 MR. BENNETT: -- CORE, as I know it, is dead.

22 CHAIR BELL: Okay.

23 MR. BENNETT: Because what you're going to  
24 have is, once there were these public declarations made  
25 about the document, the people who worked on the

1 document and, basically, the people who shared  
2 information with us about it being rumor or innuendo,  
3 you're going to be hard-pressed to get any officer to  
4 be very open with you about anything related to race or  
5 anything else in this Department. So I think good luck  
6 with that, you know.

7 CHAIR BELL: Okay. If there is no other  
8 comments, I just want to thank you for bringing forth  
9 and speaking to the issues. We have taken this matter  
10 very, very seriously, in terms of looking at all the  
11 issues you raised and the recommendation. We will be  
12 reporting out in the near, near future in terms of how  
13 we're going to approach it.

14 MR. BENNETT: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIR BELL: But we went on, I guess,  
16 informally, that we understood and we understand the  
17 issues that you brought to the surface. And we just  
18 have to really address it. As you know my history, in  
19 terms of addressing issues of that nature for a long  
20 period of time, not just in Detroit but across this  
21 country, I think we have come a long way.

22 MR. BENNETT: Yes, sir.

23 CHAIR BELL: I would hope that officers would  
24 exercise their rights, in terms of being police  
25 officers; or citizens, they do have rights. And I know

1 that DPOA should be representing all officers.

2 As a change of thrust, I was one of the  
3 people who worked very hard in reference to the role of  
4 unionism in policing not representing us.

5 MR. BENNETT: Absolutely.

6 CHAIR BELL: And I'm pleased to see there's a  
7 change, in terms of old thrust with the DPOA, LSA and  
8 the Command Officer Association that's representing.  
9 You probably have witnessed that, too. We've come a  
10 long way --

11 MR. BENNETT: Absolutely.

12 CHAIR BELL: -- when we talk about Coleman  
13 Young affirminizing (sic) the black officer movement.  
14 So, as we go forward, we would hope that you will  
15 continue to be amazing. And I think, as a retired  
16 officer, you've got a vested interest in this matter.  
17 In Detroit, we all have -- and that's why some of us  
18 are sitting here now, in terms of that awareness.

19 Chief Craig, do you want to say anything to  
20 this issue or matter?

21 CHIEF CRAIG: I hadn't planned on speaking  
22 but there are a few issues. And I think one of the --

23 CHAIR BELL: Yes, sir.

24 CHIEF CRAIG: -- Board members brought the  
25 whole issue of recommendation. Recommendations are

1 just that. I never made a commitment to either  
2 Co-Chair and I did meet -- in fact, Mr. Bennett did  
3 make reference to some of the things that I was working  
4 on during the course of these conversations. So not  
5 suggesting that he's indicating that I didn't act on  
6 any recommendation but I never made a commitment to  
7 adopt each and every recommendation.

8 In fact, there were several that were outside  
9 of my purview. One such recommendation had to do with  
10 the detective exam. The issue with the transgender  
11 restrooms was an issue being handled in the courts. So  
12 those were not things I could deal with. But the  
13 things that I could deal with, and even beyond what  
14 Mr. Bennett and Joe Weekley brought to me, were being  
15 worked on. And it's still being worked on.

16 In fact, it was during a conversation that  
17 Mr. Bennett indicated and praised the fact that we were  
18 developing diversity at the command level inside of the  
19 precincts. And, while that issue hadn't been fully  
20 brought forth, it was certainly being worked on. And  
21 he acknowledged that during the meetings with the CORE  
22 Committee, that it had been an item of discussion.

23 So any suggestion -- this committee was an  
24 idea that I had, in fact. And I did reach out to  
25 Mr. Bennett. I'm not going to go into who selected

1 Joe Weekley because that's really a nonissue. But, in  
2 terms of the issue of public knowledge of the report,  
3 let me just remind the Board, and I brought this out  
4 during prior comments, that it was first made known  
5 that a report existed when there was a press release  
6 issued by the Coalition Against Police Brutality. And  
7 I don't have the timeline; I think Director Woody would  
8 have that. That might have been on a Monday that that  
9 press release came out requesting a copy of the report.

10 A day later there was a WJR -- I think it was  
11 WJR radio interview involving Mr. Bennett who  
12 referenced the report. Now, of course, the reference  
13 of the report by both the media release and then later  
14 by Mr. Bennett certainly caused a flurry of FOIA  
15 requests from not one but 12 different media outlets.  
16 So we quickly went over to City Law and we discussed  
17 it. And it was at that point that we released an  
18 unredacted -- or a redacted copy of the report. That's  
19 how that happened.

20 Again, I've been committed, as I've said to  
21 all of you at different points in private session,  
22 committed to CORE. I'm excited about the new CORE  
23 Committee. I acknowledge the work of the former CORE  
24 Committee. Each of you did a tremendous job. I  
25 acknowledge Mr. Bennett and Mr. Weekly's work during

1 this very difficult task.

2 One of the things that Mr. Bennett brought  
3 out was the agreement of anonymity on the part of those  
4 interviewed, he's absolutely correct. But I also  
5 indicate that with anonymity it's very difficult to go  
6 out and do a -- conduct a -- whether it be an internal  
7 investigation or one connected by other entities in the  
8 Department. So that was known going forward.

9 Now, what we have done to address that issue  
10 with the new CORE Committee is that they will get  
11 trained by Internal Affairs, the Union will present, so  
12 that committee members will know if the matters that  
13 are being brought forth fall under the purview of, say,  
14 misconduct or contractual issues. Then those things  
15 will be moved over for an official investigation.

16 And so that's -- that's basically all the  
17 comments that I have in reference to Mr. Bennett's  
18 presentation.

19 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, Chief.

20 If there's no other comments or concern from  
21 the Board, I want to thank you. I'm looking forward to  
22 interaction. As you stated, the Commission's been  
23 around since 1974 and I've been here since 1974 and we  
24 take our charge responsibly, you know, in terms of the  
25 issues that you raise and I think that we're going to

1 have an opportunity to weigh in on it. And we're not  
2 taking this lightly. But I don't think it's as  
3 glaring -- I know for a fact, in terms of interaction  
4 with this Department and interacting officers. And I  
5 speak to how things are integrated at the top.

6 I look at my own Precinct Number 9 and  
7 Number 5, you know, it's balanced out, in terms of  
8 interacting with the personnel. And Commissioner Moore  
9 is engaged and Shelby, we're all engaged in terms of  
10 officers. I would hope that they feel free to speak to  
11 the Board individually or whatsoever. You know, that's  
12 why we wanted to give you that forum.

13 Because I know, at one time, it was not so  
14 easy to get to the Board, to speak to them on the older  
15 session. You know, so I had experienced that  
16 personally, you know, in my involvement, they was not  
17 that receptive, to some extent, you know. But we've  
18 come a long way.

19 And, as we move forward, as you mentioned,  
20 the cities that have problems, I'm glad to hear  
21 Oakland -- I'm familiar with the Black Officer Movement  
22 there in Oakland and San Francisco. And so this is  
23 something that we have to stay in the forefront,  
24 especially with what's happening with the climate in  
25 America. We know, we don't have to speak to it but we

1 know there's a certain climate in America that we all  
2 are concerned about.

3 So if you have any other closing comments.

4 MR. BENNETT: Yeah. Let me just say, in  
5 follow-up, that we can't also forget that, you know, we  
6 have to operate in transparency.

7 CHAIR BELL: Yes, sir.

8 MR. BENNETT: Most of us who worked on that  
9 committee were on Detroit Police Department/City time,  
10 therefore this makes this report the people's report.  
11 So, you know, I think the report should have been  
12 released. It became an issue about who released it,  
13 did I release it, did someone else release it, how did  
14 it get out there. Well, you know, I wasn't obligated  
15 to keep it a secret. You know, I'm certainly retired  
16 and could well do what I wanted to do but I didn't.

17 So I think we have to remember we have to  
18 operate in transparency because, at the end of the day,  
19 it's the people's information. It's the people's  
20 report, and they have a right to know what's going on.

21 And, with that, I'm done. I thank you for  
22 your time. I appreciate having me come down. Sorry  
23 the PowerPoint didn't work. I could come back at  
24 another time and show you guys the PowerPoint. And I'm  
25 going to go and continue my retirement.

1 CHAIR BELL: Enjoy.

2 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, sir.

3 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, sir.

4 MR. BENNETT: All right.

5 CHAIR BELL: Appreciate it.

6 COMM. MOORE: Through the Chair, I'm just  
7 curious. I've heard two different things on one  
8 subject matter, dealing with employment of the  
9 Co-Chair. I just wanted to get that clarified either  
10 now or later, preferably later so we don't belabor the  
11 point.

12 MR. BENNETT: Can I respond to that? I'm  
13 sorry.

14 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, again, I  
15 just want to state, again, on the record, this was a  
16 committee that I initiated.

17 CHAIR BELL: Right.

18 CHIEF CRAIG: As part of the committee, as  
19 Mr. Bennett pointed out, I did give it a wide berth.  
20 However, as it relates to the Co-Chair, it was my  
21 decision to create sort of a balance. One, I didn't  
22 want one single Co-Chair, a Co-Chair that would be one  
23 person that would drive the direction but that it would  
24 be balanced.

25 And I think, Mr. Weekley, can you respond to

1 that?

2 Because I did meet with he and Mr. Bennett  
3 together and so I did want to create a balance; that  
4 was the whole purpose. And I recognize that the Board  
5 had some concerns about my selections; I understand it.  
6 But that's what was done, so --

7 MR. BENNETT: Can I respond?

8 CHIEF CRAIG: Mr. Weekley, do you want to --

9 COMM. MOORE: Step to the microphone, sir.

10 CHAIR BELL: Mr. Bennett, we'll give you the  
11 opportunity --

12 MR. BENNETT: Okay.

13 CHAIR BELL: -- to respond.

14 MR. BENNETT: Okay. Sure.

15 COMM. MOORE: My question was who selected  
16 you as the Co-Chair; was it the Chief or was it  
17 Bennett?

18 MR. WEEKLY: I got a phone call from  
19 Mr. Bennett asking me who he thought would be a good  
20 person to work with for his Co-Chair. And I said,  
21 "Well, we have a peer support team, a lot of good  
22 people on that team" but that was it.

23 And he called me back and said, "Guess what?  
24 You're the Co-Chair."

25 I said, "Okay, thanks." And then I got a

1 call from Commander Bettison saying, "Congratulations,  
2 you are the Co-Chair." And that's how I was notified.

3 CHAIR BELL: I think it's clear that -- it's  
4 clear that Chief Craig initiated a committee,  
5 therefore, the Chief makes the final decision in  
6 reference to the Chair and the Co-Chair of the  
7 Committee and the composition of the Committee. So, as  
8 you mentioned, it's a recommendation. But the Chief  
9 made the final decision in reference to the Chair and  
10 the Co-Chair. I think we all understand how that  
11 works.

12 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, that's  
13 correct, I made that final decision. I did not select  
14 the individual committee members.

15 CHAIR BELL: Okay.

16 CHIEF CRAIG: It was open. All who were  
17 interested could submit. In this new CORE, I did have  
18 my hand more directly involved so that we would have a  
19 composition that's reflective of the Department.

20 CHAIR BELL: Thank you.

21 MR. BETTISON: I think it's already been said  
22 about that.

23 CHAIR BELL: Already been said. Thank you.

24 MR. BETTISON: But I just would like to go  
25 back to one thing that Mr. Bennett said, as well, as

1 far as the whole roll piece. The Chief never said  
2 that. And it would be on public record in front of the  
3 City Council as well, stating that, you know, he never  
4 put that out. So -- and I also had a conversation with  
5 Mr. Bennett as well and explained how that all  
6 occurred.

7 CHAIR BELL: Right.

8 MR. BETTISON: But Chief Craig never said  
9 that.

10 CHAIR BELL: I agree with you.

11 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, it's tit for tat. I'm  
12 just going to say this: That history has taught me one  
13 thing and that is you have to keep good records. And I  
14 have good records. And I have text messages. And I  
15 have everything I did, I documented. So, with that  
16 said, I thank you all for your time. I appreciate it.  
17 And you all have a wonderful day.

18 CHAIR BELL: Thank you, sir.

19 MR. BENNETT: Thank you.

20 CHAIR BELL: I just want to say, from  
21 historic perspective, I'm not aware of any Chief of  
22 Police or Police Commission taking on an issue like  
23 this. So I want to commend, regardless of -- we could  
24 not get here today without that initiative last year.  
25 So, regardless of the pros and cons, I think it's we

1 move forward. And I commend the Chief and the people  
2 who was involved who took on this serious subject  
3 because it's there. So we want to move forward. And I  
4 want to thank all involved parties for staying in  
5 course and we're going to move on. Thank you.

6 The next item, committees -- standing  
7 committees and ad hoc committee reports.

8 If not Mr. Hicks, Board Secretary.

9 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are  
10 no standing committee or ad hoc committee reports. The  
11 secretary also does not have a report.

12 CHAIR BELL: Thank you.

13 Any old business?

14 Any new business?

15 Announcement: First announcement, that on  
16 March the 17th, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at Greater Grace  
17 Temple on West Seven Mile Road, there will be  
18 graduation class, recruit class 2017C. This is the  
19 third class that's graduated this year. So put that on  
20 your calendar for 2017C would be graduating on that  
21 date. So the Commission have been invited. Always  
22 look forward as we move forward, in terms of new  
23 officers on the street.

24 Our next meeting is scheduled for March the  
25 2nd, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at Public Safety Headquarters.

1 Our next community meeting will be on March 9th, 2017  
2 at 6:30 p.m. at Downtown Service Area, Wayne County  
3 Community College at 801 West Fort Street. And that's  
4 the announcement.

5 The next item would be oral communication  
6 from the audience. Please give your name and you'll  
7 have two minutes to speak. Mr. Brown is going to call  
8 you up. I would ask that you be respectful. You are  
9 addressing the Board. So any question or concerns from  
10 Public Safety, I would hope that we keep our scope in  
11 those particular areas.

12 So Mr. Brown.

13 MR. BROWN: Yes, sir. So the first speaker  
14 would be Ms. Bernice Smith.

15 MS. SMITH: Good afternoon. Bernice Smith,  
16 political activist. One thing Butch didn't say, the  
17 luncheon was wonderful. We had good food, so it was  
18 plentiful. We looked for you, Chief, but we didn't see  
19 you. The mayor was there.

20 What I called -- you know, this is a serious  
21 matter, what I'm about to say, but I'm going to hurry  
22 up and get through with it. Last Friday, most of you  
23 know that you had a young lady that came from the  
24 towing company, came up here and she made a statement  
25 to most of you and she said some things that I saw

1 later on the tape that wasn't true. It was in regards  
2 to saying that the gentleman that had been spying in  
3 the area of the apartment complex, that they worked for  
4 the towing company, they did not. I don't know if the  
5 owner of that towing company is here. I invited him to  
6 come so he can tell and show documents that they did  
7 not work -- the two gentlemen that had been getting  
8 information to all of us, that they did not work for  
9 them.

10 In the meantime, I want to let you know, they  
11 towed Reverend Bullock's car Friday. But that was set  
12 up. And we found out later on they were trying to get  
13 information in regards to this towing. This is the  
14 towing of -- Goach is the name of it, and Company,  
15 that's been towing cars down there in the Medical  
16 Center. And they're affiliated with Plymouth United  
17 Church of Christ. And it's an organization that owns  
18 it -- well, it's Plymouth Nonprofit Housing  
19 Association.

20 Now, I have several letters here. I'm not  
21 going to read them or anything. I have pictures that  
22 show who the people were that towed Reverend Bullock's  
23 car and the people who threatened the gentleman that  
24 was taking information in regards to it. Also, I know  
25 it was stated that the police did not have anything to

1 do with it but the police was called that particular  
2 day and they settled the argument right there and let  
3 them know that that was Reverend Bullock's car.

4 In the meantime, I'm asking the President of  
5 the Association for him to give help in regards to  
6 that. And we need to stop this. They're charging the  
7 people \$400-some per car. Last night an incident  
8 happened where there was a man that had to be rushed to  
9 the emergency, four of his people in the car came in  
10 four cars. Their cars was towed before they got in the  
11 door. Now, you have a spotter there and I have a  
12 picture of her. She is a young lady that's Caucasian  
13 and she gives the information to the towers.

14 In the meantime, I want you, Mr. Bell, as  
15 President of the Association to either cancel this  
16 towing company because it was said in a letter,  
17 November 16th, that was written -- and I got the  
18 letter -- that stated that you were going to cancel  
19 that towing company. It has not been done. And we  
20 look to you to do something about it. And you sitting  
21 on the Police Commission as a Chairperson, I think you  
22 should have more input in regards to it. And we want  
23 to know if you would help us out.

24 We have started an organization and we're  
25 going to continue this endeavor and we're not going to

1 give up. So, until that towing company is either out  
2 of the area, which is my area, of Area 190 -- 149, and  
3 I'm the precinct delegate over there and I want it  
4 cleaned up immediately. And I thank you for your time.

5 CHAIR BELL: The Chair is going to relinquish  
6 the Chair to my Vice-Chair, Commissioner Moore, to this  
7 particular matter. But I want to say this before I  
8 relinquish now, that I am the President of Plymouth  
9 Nonprofit Housing Corporation, and it's a nonprofit  
10 since 1967. We provide affordable housing and we have  
11 an issue dealing with the situation and we have a --  
12 but it's a matter that's not before this Board. So I'm  
13 going to relinquish the Chair. That's the only thing I  
14 can say. It has nothing to do with the Board of Police  
15 Commission.

16 But I'm going to ask, Commissioner Moore, if  
17 you can acknowledge.

18 COMM. MOORE: Commissioner Crawford?

19 COMM. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir.

20 Commissioner Bell, so, in effect, you're  
21 recusing yourself from this issue. It is a -- it is a  
22 private property -- private tow service issue. I  
23 stated this before. Even prior to just having the  
24 knowledge that you're president of some association,  
25 Commissioner Bell, I stated this before on numerous

1 times at the table. Parties involved is private towing  
2 being towed from private property. We have no, as a  
3 commission, jurisdiction or either can regulate that in  
4 any way, Miss Smith.

5 MS. SMITH: I understand.

6 COMM. CRAWFORD: We can't. It has nothing to  
7 do with the Commission. Individuals, if it's something  
8 criminal that's -- that's going on, there's a police  
9 department to file reports. If it's something civil,  
10 individuals can engage in litigation. But it has  
11 nothing to do with this Board. And, to continue to  
12 bring the issue to the Board and have the individuals  
13 come before the Board, there's so many other issues  
14 that are more important pertaining to this City and,  
15 also, this police department and even this Board.

16 As with some communication, there was some  
17 reaching out, there was even some meetings in the past,  
18 one or two I wasn't privy to. But I even stated on the  
19 record, if there is a meeting, I stated, you know, call  
20 me up, I'll make the meeting, just to see if we can  
21 somewhat extend some sort of olive branch. Because  
22 this is all about community, too.

23 MS. SMITH: That's right.

24 COMM. CRAWFORD: But we have no power and no  
25 authority over this issue that you continuously bring

1 to the Board and bring individuals down here.

2 COMM. MALLET: Mr. Chairman, if I might.

3 COMM. MOORE: Go ahead.

4 COMM. MALLET: Let me just say, so that  
5 everyone is aware, Commissioner Bell is -- I enjoy the  
6 contests that he and I sometimes engage in here at the  
7 Board. But I will say that, on this particular issue,  
8 Miss Smith, that Commissioner Bell reached out to the  
9 security people at the Detroit Medical Center, worked  
10 diligently with them to do everything that he could and  
11 they could to make sure people understood that they  
12 were parking on private property, and that if -- and  
13 make sure that they understood and that we took  
14 affirmative steps to inform our valet service, if  
15 somebody comes up and says, "Look, I'm here to see my  
16 mother, she's in emergency and I don't have the money  
17 to pay for the -- the parking fee", that arrangements  
18 can be made.

19 What people cannot do is just simply choose  
20 not to follow the rules by parking on private property.  
21 So Commissioner Bell reached out to us. We modified  
22 our policy at the suggestion of the Plymouth Housing  
23 Corporation so that we could have a greater deal -- a  
24 greater coordination between the property they have  
25 right across the street from Detroit Receiving Hospital

1 and the people that we serve.

2 The truth of the matter is, is that the  
3 parking rates are the parking rates. And I'm not going  
4 to defend them because I'll tell you this right now:  
5 They ain't going away. But, if you come often, you can  
6 get a pass. If you have an emergency and you cannot  
7 pay that which is required, and it's \$4, then  
8 arrangements can be made. What you ought not do is  
9 park on private property.

10 Now, again, the modification to the DMC  
11 policy occurred at the instance (sic) of the Plymouth  
12 Housing Corporation. So I would just point that out.  
13 I agree with Commissioner Crawford that this is not the  
14 place to come.

15 But I do want to acknowledge the good work of  
16 Commissioner Bell. He has tried to resolve this. He  
17 has tried to behave as a gentleman in this process and  
18 the -- so we are where we are. But this man has done  
19 what he can do, in terms of dealing with that  
20 particular issue.

21 If people have an issue about parking at the  
22 Detroit Medical Center, they should come to the Detroit  
23 Medical Center so we can deal with it with them. Thank  
24 you.

25 CHAIR BELL: Thank you.

1                   COMM. MOORE: Any other Commissioners on the  
2                   issue?

3                   CHAIR BELL: And I want to thank  
4                   Commissioner Mallet for his comments. And I just want  
5                   to say that we are the only black-owned company that  
6                   manage this property on their former council and former  
7                   minister. It has no affiliation with Plymouth United  
8                   Church of Christ. And we have tried to explain that to  
9                   you. This is not --

10                  MS. SMITH: You're the President.

11                  CHAIR BELL: No, wait, ma'am.

12                  MS. SMITH: That's what I'm thinking about.  
13                  Put a gate up there so that people won't come in there.  
14                  The sign is not big enough for them to see.

15                  CHAIR BELL: Can I finish speaking?

16                  COMM. MOORE: Go ahead.

17                  CHAIR BELL: I just wanted to clarify that.  
18                  And this is the last time I will speak to this matter.

19                  MS. SMITH: All right. Forget it.

20                  CHAIR BELL: This is the last time I will  
21                  speak to the matter. But I just want it on record, to  
22                  make sure that we understand what we're dealing with.  
23                  And, if there's a crusade, then you need to find  
24                  another avenue because you cannot continue to try and  
25                  embarrass me or put this in this forum. This is not

1 the place for it.

2 But you can contact the Plymouth Housing  
3 Board, in terms of any of those concerns we can  
4 address; that is the proper forum. And we have  
5 entertained people who bringing it to our attention.  
6 But our main thrust is to protect the people who live  
7 there, the residents; that is our thrust, that is our  
8 business. Thank you.

9 COMM. MOORE: Mr. Brown, next speaker.

10 MR. BROWN: Ms. Fredia Butler.

11 MS. BUTLER: Good afternoon.

12 THE COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

13 MS. BUTLER: My name is Fredia Butler and I'm  
14 the community activist. And I really would like to  
15 address this, through the Chair, to Chief Craig.

16 I was on the phone speaking with a neighbor  
17 and she got a call about, you know, that we have  
18 received our property assessment out. And this company  
19 that, whoever was calling, saying that they could  
20 reduce their taxes and to give them a list of their  
21 property and so forth and we -- I felt that it was a  
22 scam.

23 So I called the Mayor's office to get  
24 information. They sent the call to the Police  
25 Department. I didn't get an answer. So, therefore, I

1 called back to the Mayor's office and they gave me a  
2 number for a scam. And I -- when I did reach where --  
3 from the number that was given to me, they told me that  
4 they could not accept any information from a third  
5 party, that since it didn't happen to me.

6 And I feel that I'm trying to report to keep  
7 people from -- people already having problems  
8 financially and, you know, that they would try to pick  
9 something up to try to help themselves. And I thought,  
10 by trying to report this, I would like to know, how  
11 should this have been reported? That's one of the  
12 things that I wanted to ask you.

13 And the other thing is that, as a community  
14 service, I thought that the radio stations and TV  
15 stations have free time that would allow for someone in  
16 your position, in the Police Department, to have free  
17 announcements. And I thought, in terms of, to get our  
18 young people involved, since -- since I've been coming  
19 to the meetings. And I know that Commander Bettison is  
20 involved with a lot of the youth. And I was thinking  
21 of -- to get them involved in helping to keep our  
22 communities clean by getting them to create some type  
23 of rap number where people would listen and to get them  
24 involved, to help to -- I feel that cleanliness will  
25 help to elevate or lift a person up spiritually also.

1 So I was wondering about that. So those are two things  
2 that I wanted to bring before the Board.

3 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, yes, we can  
4 certainly assist you. Commander Bettison, I would ask  
5 that you look into this issue. It does sound like a  
6 scam. And, certainly, as part of our effort out in the  
7 community with meetings, we strive to -- particularly  
8 with our senior community because a lot of times  
9 individuals will reach out in a number of scams. Like  
10 one of the biggest ones is the income tax, where  
11 someone will call you, allegedly, from IRS or e-mail  
12 you, I think it is, and it's totally fraudulent. They  
13 operated through the mail.

14 So we can get that information and we can  
15 follow up. And Todd can also follow up with you. We  
16 do do a lot through social media. We do do a social  
17 media/WXYZ segment every two weeks. So it's an  
18 opportunity, if you have a program you think we can  
19 help you promote or we can work with you on it, we'll  
20 definitely do it. And we do a lot with our youth and  
21 we did a lot of programs last year. But we certainly  
22 can explore it.

23 MS. BUTLER: Thank you.

24 CHIEF CRAIG: You're welcome.

25 COMM. MOORE: Mr. Brown.

1 MR. BROWN: That's it. I believe Dr. Diver  
2 left out of the room.

3 COMM. MOORE: And I'll take a motion for  
4 adjournment.

5 COMM. SANDERS: So move.

6 COMM. MALLETT: Support.

7 COMM. MOORE: Moved and supported. All in  
8 favor?

9 THE COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

10 COMM. MOORE: The "ayes" have it.

11 (Meeting was concluded at 4:44 p.m.)

12 \* \* \* \*

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Mona Storm, do hereby certify that I have recorded stenographically the proceedings had and testimony taken in the meeting, at the time and place hereinbefore set forth, and I do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of (83) pages, is a true and correct transcript of my said stenographic notes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  


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**A**  
**\$3** 32:6, 6  
**\$3,341,435.73**  
 33:6  
**\$4** 77:7  
**\$400-some** 73:7  
**\$86,000** 22:3, 3  
**a.m** 70:16  
**able** 19:25 23:5  
 25:22 32:9  
 33:11 42:8  
 55:20  
**absolute** 25:4  
**absolutely** 25:2  
 50:24 54:15  
 60:5,11 63:4  
**AC** 21:25 43:13  
**academy** 43:25  
 44:2  
**accept** 80:4  
**accident** 35:19  
**accolades** 9:17  
**accountability**  
 23:21 40:15  
**accountable**  
 44:10  
**accurate** 47:13  
**accusation** 55:10  
**accusations** 50:4  
**acknowledge**  
 32:21 62:23, 25  
 74:17 77:15  
**acknowledged**  
 61:21  
**act** 25:18 50:20  
 56:21 61:5  
**acting** 25:17  
 50:6  
**action** 20:20  
**active** 17:14  
 51:13  
**activist** 9:3  
 71:16 79:14  
**activities** 23:14  
**activity** 47:16  
 55:11  
**actual** 16:4  
**ad** 70:7, 10  
**added** 19:2  
**addition** 45:17  
**additional** 19:7

**address** 40:22  
 48:8 59:18  
 63:9 79:4, 15  
**addressed** 55:23  
**addressing** 59:19  
 71:9  
**adjectives** 49:24  
**adjournment** 82:4  
**administration**  
 21:8  
**adopt** 61:7  
**ADR** 26:12  
**advance** 12:4  
**advantage** 10:18  
 10:25  
**Advisor** 7:1  
**advocated** 34:1  
**Affairs** 63:11  
**affect** 15:12  
 33:13  
**affiliated** 72:16  
**affiliation** 78:7  
**affirmative**  
 20:19 76:14  
**affirminizing**  
 60:13  
**affordable** 74:10  
**African-Ameri...**  
 54:24  
**afternoon** 3:4, 6  
 3:7 6:4, 6, 8, 16  
 7:23 8:1, 10  
 9:23 17:10  
 32:18 45:1, 2  
 71:15 79:11, 12  
**afternoon's** 4:15  
**agenda** 4:14 9:22  
 9:23 11:7  
**ago** 10:1 15:24  
 32:17 33:9  
 52:21 57:6  
**agree** 12:18  
 69:10 77:13  
**agreed** 21:19  
 38:23 46:6  
 49:6, 8  
**agreement** 22:1  
 63:3  
**ahead** 6:17 76:3  
 78:16  
**ain't** 77:5  
**Ainsley** 5:25

**Aiyana** 51:7  
**al** 8:3  
**Alan** 2:13  
**alcohol** 16:1  
**allegations** 18:1  
 18:4, 10 37:4  
**alleged** 18:1  
**allegedly** 81:11  
**allow** 23:5 27:12  
 52:9, 11, 20  
 80:15  
**allowed** 27:15  
 29:9  
**allowing** 20:24  
**allows** 37:22  
**amazing** 60:15  
**Amendment** 24:9  
 24:13  
**America** 64:25  
 65:1  
**American** 55:20  
**announced** 11:23  
**announcement**  
 70:15, 15 71:4  
**announcements**  
 80:17  
**annual** 20:6  
 22:13  
**annually** 33:11  
**anonymity** 63:3, 5  
**answer** 79:25  
**anybody** 13:8  
**anyplace** 51:5  
**apartheid** 54:22  
**apartment** 72:3  
**apparent** 40:22  
**apparently** 40:11  
**Appeals** 3:6  
**appear** 40:20  
 42:13  
**appearing** 41:25  
**appears** 11:18  
**appointed** 2:6, 8  
 8:15  
**appreciate** 9:18  
 15:5 16:22  
 19:1, 14 34:8  
 36:8 43:9  
 65:22 66:5  
 69:16  
**apprehended**  
 14:21

**approach** 59:13  
**appropriate** 12:5  
 50:2  
**approval** 4:23  
**approve** 4:14  
**approved** 34:25  
 35:2  
**Archer** 21:8  
**area** 11:15 38:1  
 71:2 72:3 74:2  
 74:2, 2  
**areas** 14:4 18:5  
 18:15 33:15, 16  
 39:9 71:11  
**argument** 73:2  
**arrangements**  
 76:17 77:8  
**arrest** 15:24  
 16:5 24:16  
**arrested** 15:21  
 15:23  
**arrow** 31:20  
**Arthur** 8:17  
**article** 53:23  
**Ashford** 8:23, 23  
 19:23 24:11  
 25:11 26:13  
 30:16 31:2, 4  
 34:9 35:1 41:4  
 41:8, 14, 18, 22  
 43:11  
**asked** 37:9 39:16  
 40:17 45:23  
 49:11 50:21  
 53:16 54:6  
 55:14  
**asking** 10:8 33:8  
 52:13 67:19  
 73:4  
**aspects** 25:22  
**assessment** 79:18  
**assigned** 17:15  
**assist** 44:21  
 81:4  
**Assistant** 11:23  
**assisted** 20:12  
**association** 60:8  
 72:19 73:5, 15  
 74:24  
**At-Large** 3:20  
 4:10  
**attend** 12:6

**attendance** 3:8  
 32:22 58:14  
**attended** 9:14  
**attention** 28:2  
 46:5 79:5  
**attitude** 28:5  
 34:9  
**Attorney** 21:18  
 34:19  
**attorneys** 33:18  
**audience** 32:22  
 71:6  
**Audio** 2:13  
**audio/visual**  
 5:20  
**auditors** 23:22  
 39:2  
**August** 21:23  
 45:7,7 49:13  
 49:14,15,19  
 50:11  
**authority** 75:25  
**auto** 35:15  
**available** 32:7  
 39:8,13  
**avenue** 78:24  
**average** 30:22  
 31:1 37:16  
**Awan** 39:16  
**award** 22:17  
**awardee** 20:8  
**aware** 10:6 20:21  
 45:25 48:17  
 57:18,20 69:21  
 76:5  
**awareness** 23:13  
 60:18  
**aye** 4:19,20 5:4  
 5:5 82:9  
**eyes** 82:10

---

**B**

---

**baby** 50:14 51:7  
**back** 23:3 28:6  
 28:24 30:4  
 33:25 34:14  
 55:10 65:23  
 67:23 68:25  
 80:1  
**backside** 42:2  
**Baker** 38:14  
**balance** 5:17

29:1 66:21  
 67:3  
**balanced** 64:7  
 66:24  
**Baltimore** 51:17  
 52:8,15  
**ban** 57:5  
**bankruptcy** 26:4  
 26:5,15,17,20  
 27:2,4,4  
**Barb** 21:18  
**Barren** 14:23  
**barricaded** 14:18  
**bars** 48:13  
**based** 26:16  
 30:24 39:18  
**basically** 25:25  
 59:1 63:16  
**basis** 32:10,10  
 32:11 34:15  
 38:20 48:14  
**beefed** 28:4,4  
**began** 29:21  
 47:18 48:10  
 49:14  
**beginning** 29:24  
**behave** 77:17  
**behavior** 15:8  
**belabor** 9:24  
 66:10  
**belief** 42:24  
**believe** 19:9  
 21:15 27:5  
 82:1  
**Bell** 2:2 3:4,5  
 3:15 4:4,8,18  
 4:21 5:2,6 6:1  
 6:11,14,18  
 7:24 8:7,14,18  
 8:21,25 9:5,8  
 11:25 12:8,18  
 14:17 15:2  
 16:11,18,22  
 18:22 19:1,4,8  
 19:11,17,19  
 20:16,18 32:13  
 32:20 34:17  
 36:11 40:1  
 42:17 43:3,7,9  
 43:12 44:21  
 53:5 56:9  
 57:13,15 58:5

58:9,12,16,20  
 58:22 59:7,15  
 59:23 60:6,12  
 60:23 63:19  
 65:7 66:1,3,5  
 66:17 67:10,13  
 68:3,15,20,23  
 69:7,10,18,20  
 70:12 73:14  
 74:5,20,25  
 76:5,8,21  
 77:16,25 78:3  
 78:11,15,17,20  
**Bennett** 44:14,20  
 44:23 45:1,3  
 53:7,10 54:8  
 54:11,15 55:18  
 56:11,13 57:16  
 57:22 58:2,4,6  
 58:18,21,23  
 59:14,22 60:5  
 60:11 61:2,14  
 61:17,25 62:11  
 62:14,25 63:2  
 65:4,8 66:2,4  
 66:12,19 67:2  
 67:7,10,12,14  
 67:17,19 68:25  
 69:5,11,19  
**Bennett's** 63:17  
**Bernice** 71:14,15  
**berth** 66:19  
**best** 12:1,16,19  
 21:14 24:2  
 27:5 37:11  
 39:5,5,11,21  
 39:24 53:2  
**better** 10:24  
 28:14 30:6,6  
 32:2 34:13  
 35:21  
**Bettison** 7:4,4  
 68:1,21,24  
 69:8 80:19  
 81:4  
**beyond** 61:13  
**big** 23:25 27:21  
 42:5 78:14  
**biggest** 81:10  
**bill** 43:16 52:3  
**billboards** 35:14  
**Bishop** 4:11

**bit** 28:20 31:25  
**biweekly** 48:22  
**black** 20:14  
 52:17 53:3  
 60:13 64:21  
**black-owned** 78:5  
**bleeding** 6:13  
**blue** 31:7  
**board** 1:9 3:6  
 5:9,9 9:13  
 12:2 35:22  
 45:5 50:19  
 51:23,24,24  
 52:3,13 53:1  
 55:17 60:24  
 62:3 63:21  
 64:11,14 67:4  
 70:8 71:9  
 74:12,14 75:11  
 75:12,13,15  
 76:1,7 79:3  
 81:2  
**body** 45:4  
**bottom** 31:21  
**Bowl** 47:2  
**box** 53:13  
**branch** 75:21  
**brave** 21:12  
**Bridget** 16:12  
**brief** 11:6 32:8  
 36:4  
**briefly** 11:8  
**bring** 25:1 38:8  
 42:12 43:5,5  
 48:15 50:3  
 75:12,25 76:1  
 81:2  
**bringing** 33:8  
 41:25 59:8  
 79:5  
**brought** 24:7  
 25:7,9 39:1  
 40:18 46:4,20  
 50:9 59:17  
 60:24 61:14,20  
 62:3 63:2,13  
**Brown** 2:11 5:13  
 16:25 17:5  
 39:18 71:7,12  
 71:13 79:9,10  
 81:25 82:1  
**Brutality** 62:6

**Bullock's** 72:11  
72:22 73:3  
**bureau** 24:2  
**Burton** 4:9  
**bus** 27:23 28:19  
28:23 29:3,7  
29:14 35:17,19  
35:20 50:17  
**buses** 28:22  
**business** 4:23  
5:8 6:2 19:20  
70:13,14 79:8  
**busy** 13:17  
**Butch** 8:10 19:21  
71:16  
**Butler** 9:2,2,6,7  
79:10,11,13,13  
81:23

---

**C**

---

**C** 83:1,1  
**calendar** 70:20  
**California** 52:2  
**call** 3:9 39:9  
45:22 48:12  
67:18 68:1  
71:7 75:19  
79:17,24 81:11  
**called** 15:9 24:7  
37:12 67:23  
71:20 73:1  
79:23 80:1  
**calling** 17:5  
48:13 79:19  
**calls** 23:17  
48:11  
**cameras** 28:23  
35:20,21  
**cancel** 73:15,18  
**canisters** 15:11  
**capacity** 8:16  
**car** 72:11,23  
73:3,7,9  
**cards** 16:25 17:3  
**care** 58:9  
**career** 12:11  
**carjackings** 14:6  
**carries** 4:22  
**carry** 5:7  
**cars** 72:15 73:10  
73:10  
**Carter** 2:4 3:21

3:21 57:14,16  
57:23 58:3  
**case** 15:16 16:3  
17:16 21:22  
25:14 26:9  
27:14,23,24,24  
29:10 30:21,23  
35:25 36:2,5  
38:18 42:6  
**caseload** 37:16  
37:17  
**cases** 17:14,14  
17:16,18,20,22  
17:23,23,24,24  
18:4,9,16  
23:18 24:6,8,8  
24:9,13 25:13  
26:12,15,19,20  
27:15 28:6,7  
28:19 29:4,4,5  
29:8,14 30:9  
30:11,15,19  
35:16,17 37:19  
41:24 42:1,4,9  
**Cass** 6:5  
**catch** 52:5  
**Caucasian** 73:12  
**cause** 14:10 42:5  
42:7  
**caused** 62:14  
**Cease** 11:20  
**celebrated** 20:6  
**celebration** 12:6  
20:14  
**Celia** 6:25 22:1  
39:7  
**Center** 72:16  
76:9 77:22,23  
**certain** 13:7  
21:13 23:14,22  
24:19,21 27:11  
27:12 37:19  
38:5 65:1  
**certainly** 12:18  
15:7,14 19:10  
61:20 62:14  
65:15 81:4,6  
81:21  
**certifications**  
10:3  
**certify** 83:3,6  
**cetera** 23:23

**chair** 3:4,5,15  
4:4,8,18,21  
5:2,6,11 6:1  
6:11,14,18  
7:20,24 8:7,13  
8:14,18,21,25  
9:5,8 11:7,25  
12:8 13:20  
14:17 15:2,5  
15:18 16:6,11  
16:12,18,22  
18:22 19:1,4,8  
19:17,19 20:16  
20:18 32:13,20  
32:24 34:17,18  
36:11 40:1,2  
42:15,17 43:3  
43:7,9,12  
44:21 45:23  
53:5,7,11 56:9  
56:11 57:13,14  
57:15 58:5,9  
58:12,16,20,22  
59:7,15,23  
60:6,12,23  
63:19 65:7  
66:1,3,5,6,14  
66:17 67:10,13  
68:3,6,9,12,15  
68:20,23 69:7  
69:10,18,20  
70:9,12 74:5,5  
74:6,13 77:25  
78:3,11,15,17  
78:20 79:15  
81:3  
**Chairman** 19:22  
31:23 36:13  
38:11,15 76:2  
**Chairperson** 2:2  
2:3 73:21  
**challenge** 11:14  
**change** 29:21  
60:2,7  
**changed** 22:24  
**changes** 23:10  
39:10  
**changing** 22:15  
**character** 50:6  
**charge** 63:24  
**charged** 44:12  
55:14

**charging** 73:6  
**Charles** 7:3  
**Charter** 28:12  
**checkoff** 53:13  
**Chene** 35:19  
**Chicago** 52:15  
**Chief** 2:14 5:16  
5:22,24 6:4,6  
6:8,13,16,19  
6:20,21,21,23  
6:23 7:4,16,22  
8:2,5,23 9:17  
10:16 11:5,6  
11:23 12:7,14  
12:22,23 13:3  
13:7,20 14:17  
15:1,5,19 16:6  
16:20,21,23  
17:9,11 19:23  
21:4 31:23  
36:15 38:11  
39:15 40:3  
41:8 42:14,25  
43:14,15 45:22  
46:20 47:4  
48:14,16 49:9  
49:10 50:12,21  
53:23 55:5,7  
55:21 60:19,21  
60:24 63:19  
66:14,18 67:8  
67:16 68:4,5,8  
68:12,16 69:1  
69:8,21 70:1  
71:18 79:15  
81:3,24  
**Chief's** 36:21  
**choose** 76:19  
**chose** 32:25  
**Christ** 72:17  
78:8  
**Church** 72:17  
78:8  
**CI** 5:23 17:10  
18:25 19:2,5,9  
19:18  
**Circuit** 25:8,10  
25:10,13  
**circulate** 17:3  
**circumstances**  
24:20  
**cities** 27:20

51:9,17,18  
64:20  
**citizen** 23:16  
36:24 37:2,4  
45:20 52:23  
**citizens** 51:2,3  
51:6,21 59:25  
**city** 9:14 25:7  
26:22 27:17,18  
31:15 32:7  
33:10,11,15,16  
33:19 34:25  
35:2 37:12  
38:13 39:22  
41:10 45:19  
51:3,5 52:23  
53:3 62:16  
69:3 75:14  
**City's** 25:15  
52:16  
**civil** 20:14  
23:15 24:1  
75:9  
**civilian** 23:22  
38:7  
**civilians** 10:20  
**claim** 28:11  
29:11 30:18  
**claims** 24:4 25:6  
25:7 26:2,3  
27:12,13  
**clarified** 66:9  
**clarify** 78:17  
**class** 19:7,9  
70:18,18,19  
**classes** 19:13,13  
**clean** 80:22  
**cleaned** 74:4  
**cleanliness**  
80:24  
**clear** 50:12 68:3  
68:4  
**Cleveland** 35:18  
**clients** 35:11  
39:19  
**climate** 64:24  
65:1  
**close** 35:10  
**closed** 10:18  
17:22,23 18:9  
**closely** 35:23  
**closer** 35:11

**closing** 50:25  
65:3  
**closure** 17:16  
50:3  
**Co-Chair** 44:15  
46:16,17,18  
50:22 53:16,16  
54:4 56:17,19  
56:23 61:2  
66:9,20,22,22  
67:16,20,24  
68:2,6,10  
**Coalition** 62:6  
**coat** 6:9  
**Cohen** 21:22 22:5  
**Coleman** 52:21  
60:12  
**College** 71:3  
**color** 24:8  
**combination**  
34:13  
**come** 7:23,25  
32:9 34:14  
44:5,16 45:4  
47:4 50:19  
59:21 60:9  
64:18 65:22,23  
72:6 75:13  
77:5,14,22  
78:13  
**comes** 27:24  
76:15  
**comfortable**  
57:10  
**coming** 14:12  
19:14 29:2  
37:21,22,25  
56:11,24 57:17  
80:18  
**COMM** 3:13,19,21  
3:23,25 4:2,16  
4:17,25 5:1  
7:20 12:15,21  
12:25 13:4,10  
13:14,16,19  
15:17 16:10  
32:19,24 33:2  
33:4 34:18  
35:4,6 36:8,13  
39:25 40:2  
41:5,13,17,21  
42:16 53:7

54:7,9,12  
55:16 56:8,10  
56:14 57:14,16  
57:23 58:3  
66:6 67:9,15  
74:18,19 75:6  
75:24 76:2,3,4  
78:1,16 79:9  
81:25 82:3,5,6  
82:7,10  
**command** 39:15  
60:8 61:18  
**commander** 7:4,8  
7:8,10,10,12  
7:12,21 14:23  
55:24 68:1  
80:19 81:4  
**commend** 14:17,23  
69:23 70:1  
**comment** 12:15  
**comments** 12:14  
16:19 19:1  
32:23 36:11  
42:18 59:8  
62:4 63:17,20  
65:3 78:4  
**commission** 9:13  
10:2 57:18  
69:22 70:21  
73:21 74:15  
75:3,7  
**Commission's**  
36:21 63:22  
**Commissioner**  
3:11,15,17,19  
3:21,23,25 4:2  
4:8,10 12:18  
19:11 32:16,25  
34:7 36:10  
40:1,17 64:8  
74:6,16,18,20  
74:25 76:5,8  
76:21 77:13,16  
78:4  
**commissioners**  
1:9 2:1 3:16  
4:14,20 5:5  
12:13 18:22  
19:12 32:14,23  
34:17 36:12  
41:9 42:17  
43:19 45:2

52:3 53:6 56:9  
57:13 58:5  
78:1 79:12  
82:9  
**commitment** 61:1  
61:6  
**committed** 62:20  
62:22  
**committee** 44:16  
45:12,16,23  
46:23 47:25  
48:1,2,20,22  
48:24 49:1,3,4  
50:7 53:11  
54:16 61:22,23  
62:23,24 63:10  
63:12 65:9  
66:16,18 68:4  
68:7,7,14 70:7  
70:10,10  
**Committee's**  
45:16  
**committees** 70:6  
70:7  
**communication**  
71:5 75:16  
**communities**  
80:22  
**community** 9:2,3  
10:1 11:3 12:1  
14:19 20:10  
30:6 32:2  
42:23 51:11,11  
51:22 52:6  
56:20,21 71:1  
71:3 75:22  
79:14 80:13  
81:7,8  
**company** 71:24  
72:4,5,14  
73:16,19 74:1  
78:5 79:18  
**compare** 29:20  
**compared** 11:16  
11:17 30:3  
31:11  
**comparison** 17:20  
**comparisons**  
31:17  
**complained** 55:19  
**complaint** 36:24  
37:2 38:7

**complaints** 23:16  
 38:3 55:17  
**complex** 72:3  
**compliance** 23:21  
**complicate** 37:5  
**complicated**  
 37:19  
**composition** 68:7  
 68:19  
**concern** 14:10  
 15:25 18:5,15  
 32:15 63:20  
**concerned** 13:23  
 16:7 52:24  
 65:2  
**concerns** 42:22  
 46:1 48:3,3,4  
 53:6 67:5 71:9  
 79:3  
**concluded** 82:11  
**concludes** 18:20  
**conduct** 63:6  
**confident** 11:20  
**Congratulations**  
 68:1  
**connected** 13:18  
 63:7  
**Conrad** 2:6 32:16  
**cons** 69:25  
**Consent** 22:7  
**consequential**  
 37:7  
**consistent** 22:9  
**consisting** 83:7  
**Constitutional**  
 21:10,21 22:9  
 24:22,25 30:6  
 39:24 41:10  
 44:9  
**contact** 79:2  
**contacted** 50:18  
**contests** 76:6  
**continue** 9:19  
 11:21 14:6  
 52:7 58:17  
 60:15 65:25  
 73:25 75:11  
 78:24  
**continues** 14:4  
 29:18  
**continuously**  
 75:25

**contractual**  
 63:14  
**contrary** 42:24  
**conversation**  
 50:11 61:16  
 69:4  
**conversations**  
 61:4  
**convicted** 15:21  
**Cook** 21:22  
**cooperation**  
 10:13  
**coordination**  
 76:24  
**copies** 10:7  
**copy** 10:7 62:9  
 62:18  
**core** 32:7 44:15  
 44:16 50:13  
 53:23,24,25  
 56:17,23 57:5  
 57:11 58:17,21  
 61:21 62:22,22  
 62:23 63:10  
 68:17  
**Corporation** 8:9  
 21:4 33:5 40:9  
 74:9 76:23  
 77:12  
**correct** 55:5  
 63:4 68:13  
 83:8  
**costs** 33:22  
**council** 9:4  
 33:11 34:25  
 35:2 69:3 78:6  
**Counsel** 8:9 21:4  
 33:5,10 40:9  
**country** 20:13  
 21:15 51:5  
 59:21  
**County** 15:23  
 25:8,14 42:10  
 71:2  
**couple** 15:21,21  
 40:19 51:2  
**course** 5:14,16  
 13:25 23:18  
 24:1 61:4  
 62:12 70:5  
**court** 5:21 21:20  
 22:2 23:17,19

24:5,6,21 25:8  
 25:14 26:13  
 29:8,24 35:25  
 36:3,5 37:9  
 41:25 42:10  
**courthouse** 20:5  
 30:25  
**courts** 26:8  
 27:12 61:11  
**Cox** 7:15,15  
**Craig** 2:14 6:4,6  
 6:8,13,16,19  
 7:22 8:5 11:5  
 11:6 12:7,23  
 13:3,7,20 15:1  
 15:5 16:6,21  
 20:7 22:17  
 42:25 43:15  
 45:22 60:19,21  
 60:24 66:14,18  
 67:8 68:4,12  
 68:16 69:8  
 79:15 81:3,24  
**crashes** 23:14  
**Crawford** 2:7  
 3:25 4:1 12:15  
 15:17 16:10  
 32:24 33:4  
 40:1,2 41:5,13  
 41:17,21 42:16  
 56:10,14 74:18  
 74:19 75:6,24  
 77:13  
**create** 66:21  
 67:3 80:22  
**credit** 31:25  
 32:1  
**crime** 5:25 7:6  
 11:8,11,11,12  
 14:3,7  
**criminal** 22:14  
 38:15,17 41:24  
 75:8  
**Cromwell** 5:25  
**cross-section**  
 54:16  
**crusade** 78:23  
**CSR-4460** 83:12  
**curb** 41:23  
**curious** 66:7  
**currently** 17:13  
 17:17

**Cushingberry**  
 8:20  
**custom** 41:11  
**cut** 36:5 42:6

---

**D**


---

**damages** 26:22,23  
**Damon** 20:6  
**Dan** 39:17  
**database** 23:13  
**date** 11:9 32:9  
 70:21 83:11  
**David** 6:24  
**Davis** 17:11  
**Davis-Drake** 5:24  
 16:24 17:9  
**day** 22:12 37:15  
 49:13 62:10  
 65:18 69:17  
 73:2  
**days** 15:13 17:17  
 51:8  
**DDOT** 35:7,9  
 39:17  
**dead** 58:21  
**deal** 21:5 41:7  
 61:12,13 76:23  
 77:23  
**dealing** 42:2  
 66:8 74:11  
 77:19 78:22  
**dealt** 47:11 48:5  
**decade** 22:6  
**decided** 7:23  
 48:22 49:5  
 53:11  
**decides** 12:20  
**decision** 36:4  
 43:20 66:21  
 68:5,9,13  
**declarations**  
 58:24  
**decline** 14:5  
**declined** 42:24  
**decrease** 17:19  
 27:8,8 31:23  
 40:12  
**deescalation**  
 38:6  
**defend** 28:12  
 42:6 77:4  
**defending** 38:12

**defense** 39:12,12  
**definitely** 81:20  
**degree** 23:4  
**delegate** 74:3  
**demeanor** 18:6,17  
 37:1  
**department** 2:10  
 8:24 9:18  
 19:14,21,24  
 20:20 21:12,15  
 21:24 25:2,21  
 27:24 29:3,23  
 30:19 31:7,8  
 31:13,25 32:3  
 33:14,20 34:10  
 35:9 37:24  
 38:23 40:6,11  
 40:12 41:2,15  
 41:20 42:12  
 43:21 45:19  
 47:15 49:19  
 50:23 51:4  
 52:1,9,10,12  
 52:14,16,22,25  
 53:25 54:21,25  
 55:2,7 56:7  
 59:5 63:8 64:4  
 68:19 75:9,15  
 79:25 80:16  
**Department/City**  
 65:9  
**depending** 27:13  
**deployed** 15:12  
**depositions** 28:9  
 29:13  
**Deputy** 6:20,21  
 6:21,23,23 7:2  
 7:2 43:14  
**Derrick** 2:8 3:19  
**deserve** 31:24  
**desire** 10:9  
**detective** 14:12  
 61:10  
**determination**  
 25:23  
**Detroit** 1:9,13  
 1:15 3:1 6:4  
 13:1 20:20  
 26:22 27:18  
 35:12 39:23  
 40:5 45:20  
 49:18 51:1,1,5

52:1 53:21  
 59:20 60:17  
 65:9 76:9,25  
 77:22,22  
**developing** 61:18  
**Development**  
 39:17  
**developments**  
 22:14  
**Dewaelsche** 4:10  
**dialogue** 9:24  
 17:7 44:3  
**Diaz** 32:21 38:11  
 57:4  
**differ** 56:18  
**difference** 11:2  
 32:6 33:6  
**different** 33:10  
 34:9 53:8  
 62:15,21 66:7  
**difficult** 63:1,5  
**diligently** 76:10  
**direction** 47:7  
 52:25 66:23  
**directly** 21:16  
 68:18  
**Director** 7:18,18  
 62:7  
**disciplinary**  
 41:14  
**disciplining**  
 41:16  
**Discovery** 28:9  
**discretionary**  
 25:18  
**discriminatory**  
 57:7  
**discussed** 40:18  
 62:16  
**discussing** 48:24  
**discussion** 5:3  
 61:22  
**disgruntled**  
 49:17  
**dismissed** 26:16  
 42:1,10  
**disparaged** 49:23  
**disparaging** 50:5  
**dissertation**  
 51:15  
**Dist** 2:2,3,4,5,7  
**District** 3:5,22

3:24 4:1,3,9  
 4:11 8:22  
 23:19 42:10  
**Diver** 82:1  
**Divers** 8:17,17  
 8:18,19,22  
**diversity** 61:18  
**Division** 7:7  
 38:15,17  
**DMC** 77:10  
**docket** 30:24  
**document** 49:10  
 49:11 50:21  
 58:25 59:1  
**documented** 69:15  
**documents** 72:6  
**doing** 10:17  
 14:11 18:24  
 35:8,9 39:11  
 39:20,24 42:25  
 46:10 47:21  
 51:16 52:5  
**DOJ** 21:6  
**dollar** 27:23,24  
 28:13,13,14,15  
**Dolunt** 11:23  
**door** 37:22,22  
 73:11  
**DOT** 29:18  
**Doug** 38:14  
**Downtown** 71:2  
**DPD** 7:25 12:12  
 20:1 29:16  
 30:1 31:15  
**DPD's** 22:7  
**DPOA** 32:21 33:23  
 34:1 55:9 57:3  
 60:1,7  
**DPW** 28:18 29:22  
**Dr** 8:17,18,19,22  
 82:1  
**draft** 12:5  
**Drake** 5:16,22,23  
 17:10,11 18:25  
 19:2,5,9,18  
 43:14  
**dramatic** 36:25  
**drive** 14:7 66:23  
**drop** 31:22  
**due** 44:8,11  
**Durks** 39:17  
**duties** 25:17

**duty** 28:12  
**DWSD** 29:22

---

**E**


---

**E** 2:2,14 83:1,1  
**e-mail** 81:11  
**earlier** 38:20  
 44:19  
**early** 23:12 38:4  
 39:4  
**East** 6:22  
**easy** 14:24 64:14  
**eaten** 52:22  
**Economic** 39:17  
**Edgar** 4:11  
**EEO** 54:2  
**effect** 74:20  
**effecting** 24:16  
**effective** 11:24  
 14:14  
**efficient** 14:13  
**effort** 81:6  
**efforts** 11:20  
 22:7  
**eight** 15:7 49:1  
**eight-hour** 15:11  
**Eighty-five**  
 17:24  
**either** 17:15  
 36:20 61:1  
 66:9 73:15  
 74:1 75:3  
**elaborate** 13:8  
 16:2 54:13  
**elected** 8:14  
**elevate** 80:25  
**eleven** 21:6,7  
**eleven-year**  
 38:24  
**embarrass** 78:25  
**emergency** 73:9  
 76:16 77:6  
**employee** 16:7  
**employment** 66:8  
**endeavor** 73:25  
**endeavors** 12:3  
 12:20  
**ended** 22:5 48:20  
**enforcement** 10:3  
 10:10,11,14,20  
 40:24  
**engage** 75:10

76:6  
**engaged** 12:17  
 16:15 40:9  
 64:9,9  
**engaging** 9:19  
 12:1 43:23  
**enjoy** 66:1 76:5  
**entering** 24:24  
**entertained** 79:5  
**entities** 63:7  
**entitled** 24:19  
**entity** 21:21  
 57:10  
**equipment** 28:15  
 33:14  
**especially** 9:16  
 64:24  
**essence** 54:12  
**essentially**  
 25:15  
**et** 23:23  
**Eva** 4:10  
**event** 46:9 53:9  
 53:12  
**everybody** 48:2  
 56:12  
**everything's**  
 40:22  
**evidence** 42:1,13  
**exact** 33:6  
**exactly** 37:13  
**exam** 61:10  
**example** 26:18  
**excess** 15:6  
**excessive** 24:15  
**excited** 62:22  
**excused** 4:9,10  
 4:11  
**Executive** 16:13  
**executives** 49:16  
**exercise** 59:24  
**exhibited** 15:8  
**existed** 62:5  
**exonerated** 18:13  
**expanded** 29:14  
**expanding** 29:8  
**experienced**  
 64:15  
**explain** 78:8  
**explained** 69:5  
**explore** 81:22  
**exposure** 29:14

**expound** 40:4  
 41:2  
**expounded** 40:7  
**expressed** 57:6  
**expressing** 56:25  
**extend** 75:21  
**extent** 64:17  
**extremely** 13:17  
**eyes** 54:19

---

**F**


---

**F** 83:1  
**face** 56:5 57:7  
**Facebook** 47:1,8  
**faces** 3:7  
**fact** 10:17 14:5  
 16:7 21:5 22:6  
 46:1 61:2,8,16  
 61:17,24 64:3  
**facts** 42:23  
**failing** 41:11,18  
**fairly** 31:22  
**fall** 44:9 63:13  
**familiar** 64:21  
**families** 7:25  
**famous** 38:16  
**far** 10:23 69:1  
**fast-forward**  
 49:21  
**fast-forwarding**  
 20:2  
**fatal** 11:16  
**favor** 4:19 5:4  
 82:8  
**February** 1:11  
 3:2 4:15,24  
 46:20 53:19  
**federal** 20:5,12  
 21:20 24:4,5,6  
 24:21 26:2,19  
 27:12 30:18,25  
**fee** 76:17  
**feel** 54:20,25  
 55:1 57:6,10  
 64:10 80:6,24  
**felt** 45:14 53:12  
 56:19 79:21  
**Ferguson** 51:17  
 52:8,15  
**fifth** 36:23  
**figure** 50:17  
**file** 21:19 26:14

28:11 29:11  
 75:9  
**filed** 17:19,23  
 18:4 27:15  
 30:9,21  
**files** 30:23  
 37:17,18  
**filing** 30:13  
 34:12  
**fill** 10:17 12:9  
**filling** 12:22  
**final** 68:5,9,13  
**financially** 80:8  
**find** 37:15 38:8  
 49:22 51:4  
 78:23  
**findings** 18:10  
 48:17 49:16  
**fine** 50:7  
**finish** 78:15  
**finished** 30:24  
**Fire** 11:20 29:22  
**fired** 14:20 15:4  
 47:15  
**firefighting**  
 28:15  
**first** 11:7,9  
 13:21 21:3  
 30:4 45:3 62:4  
 70:15 71:13  
**firsthand** 43:24  
**fiscal** 5:14  
**fisticuffs** 46:3  
**fit** 6:10  
**Fitzgerald** 7:2,3  
**five** 11:11,12  
 23:17  
**flag** 38:7  
**flagging** 39:5  
**flags** 23:14  
**flew** 20:13  
**Flint** 27:19  
**flipped** 31:12,13  
**flow** 17:6  
**flurry** 62:14  
**FOIA** 62:14  
**follow** 76:20  
 81:15,15  
**follow-up** 65:5  
**following** 57:8  
**follows** 18:11,16  
**food** 20:7 22:16

71:17  
**force** 18:7,18  
 22:8 23:15,23  
 24:15 38:6  
**forefront** 64:23  
**foregoing** 83:7  
**forget** 65:5  
 78:19  
**form** 10:5,6,15  
 45:24  
**format** 17:2  
**former** 37:8 39:2  
 62:23 78:6,6  
**Fort** 71:3  
**forth** 59:8 61:20  
 63:13 79:21  
 83:6  
**fortunate** 14:3  
**forum** 64:12  
 78:25 79:4  
**forward** 4:13  
 35:24 43:21  
 44:16 47:12  
 48:19 50:9  
 60:14 63:8,21  
 64:19 70:1,3  
 70:22,22  
**found** 53:19  
 72:12  
**four** 17:14 73:9  
 73:10  
**fourth** 24:9,13  
 36:23  
**frame** 45:11  
**Francisco** 64:22  
**frank** 58:19  
**fraudulent** 81:12  
**Fredia** 9:2 79:10  
 79:13  
**free** 64:10 80:15  
 80:16  
**Friday** 71:22  
 72:11  
**friend** 3:11  
**front** 21:20 23:3  
 40:10 69:2  
**fully** 61:19  
**fund** 27:25 28:1  
**fundamentally**  
 22:8  
**further** 83:6  
**future** 9:21

12:19 40:23  
44:4 59:12

---

**G**

---

**game** 15:3  
**gang** 11:19 13:2  
**Garrity** 55:7,8,9  
**Gary** 39:18  
**gas** 15:12  
**gate** 78:13  
**gender** 48:6  
**general** 24:9  
26:3 27:25,25  
39:2  
**generally** 24:7  
31:2  
**gentleman** 72:2  
72:23 77:17  
**gentlemen** 72:7  
**George** 8:20  
**getting** 43:15,16  
72:7 80:22  
**give** 19:25 32:1  
32:11 45:11,14  
45:17 54:19,22  
55:2 64:12  
66:19 67:10  
71:6 73:5 74:1  
79:20  
**given** 56:19 80:3  
**gives** 73:13  
**giving** 46:5 57:1  
**glad** 33:23 64:20  
**glaring** 64:3  
**go** 5:21 6:17  
13:22 17:12  
21:2 22:25  
24:21 25:21  
26:7 30:4  
33:11 43:20  
44:2 47:19  
48:10 50:13  
60:14 61:25  
63:5 65:25  
68:24 76:3  
78:16  
**Goach** 72:14  
**goal** 10:14 11:13  
**goes** 32:12  
**going** 3:9,10,16  
4:12,13 5:15  
8:11 9:22,23

13:25 14:11  
16:8 17:3,6,8  
17:12 19:6,10  
21:16,17 22:22  
28:11,11 35:11  
37:18 38:8,25  
42:3,3 44:5,16  
46:8,14 48:7  
48:18,23 49:2  
52:23 54:19  
58:23 59:3,13  
61:25 63:8,25  
65:20,25 69:12  
70:5 71:7,21  
72:21 73:18,25  
73:25 74:5,13  
74:16 75:8  
77:3,5  
**good** 3:4,6,10  
6:6,8,16 7:24  
8:1,3,6 9:5,15  
14:23 17:10  
19:13 20:3  
32:18 40:17  
42:25 45:1,2  
50:9 51:10  
59:5 67:19,21  
69:13,14 71:15  
71:17 77:15  
79:11,12  
**gotten** 23:4  
**govern** 23:2  
**Governor** 10:9  
**Grace** 70:16  
**gracefully** 33:3  
**grad** 6:5  
**grade** 39:18  
**graduated** 70:19  
**graduating** 70:20  
**graduation** 43:25  
70:18  
**Grand** 27:19  
**grant** 38:24  
**granted** 21:22  
**gravity** 56:20  
**great** 19:15  
20:14 22:21  
41:7 42:20  
**greater** 70:16  
76:23,24  
**greatly** 13:23  
**Gregory** 2:12

5:10  
**grievance** 57:5  
**gross** 25:16  
**group** 16:1  
**group-related**  
11:19  
**guess** 6:1 10:8  
14:5 17:2 33:9  
45:8 56:22  
59:15 67:23  
**guidelines** 23:1  
**gunman** 14:19  
**guys** 49:7 65:24

---

**H**

---

**half** 12:10 13:6  
13:11  
**Hall** 6:20,21,21  
**hand** 68:18  
**handcuffed** 42:11  
**handcuffs** 24:14  
**handed** 49:10  
**handle** 14:25  
**handled** 61:11  
**happen** 52:9,10  
80:5  
**happened** 26:11  
49:21 62:19  
73:8  
**happening** 44:9  
47:4 64:24  
**happens** 40:10  
**happy** 18:20  
34:14 43:6  
**hard** 28:6 60:3  
**hard-pressed**  
59:3  
**He'll** 38:17  
**head** 19:24 23:24  
31:4 37:24  
38:17  
**headed** 52:25  
**Headquarters**  
1:13 70:25  
**heads** 39:16,17  
**health** 16:16  
**hear** 8:11 9:15  
9:20 17:8  
33:12,24 34:2  
64:20  
**heard** 41:7 56:11  
57:17 58:18

66:7  
**hearing** 16:23  
42:14 57:2  
**hearsay** 50:4  
**heavy** 9:23 11:7  
12:9  
**help** 16:8 35:21  
73:5,23 80:9  
80:24,25 81:19  
**helpful** 28:22,24  
**helping** 80:21  
**helps** 22:12  
28:21 39:21,23  
41:22  
**hereinbefore**  
83:6  
**Hicks** 2:12 4:6  
5:10,11 70:8,9  
**high** 13:22  
**highly** 12:11  
**hiring** 41:14  
43:18  
**historic** 69:21  
**historically**  
20:20  
**history** 20:15,22  
59:18 69:12  
**hoc** 70:7,10  
**hold** 11:21  
**holistic** 45:18  
**Hollowell** 8:10  
8:13 19:21,22  
20:17,24 24:12  
25:12 26:25  
30:17 31:3,5  
34:7,21 35:3,5  
35:8 36:10,14  
37:8 43:1,4,8  
43:10  
**Hollywood** 6:3,10  
**home** 45:23 48:12  
48:13  
**homicide** 11:15  
14:9  
**honor** 20:11  
**hope** 8:2 12:5  
32:9 59:23  
60:14 64:10  
71:10  
**hoped** 53:25  
**hopeful** 11:20  
**hoping** 10:24

35:24 36:3  
**Hospital** 76:25  
**Hot** 6:11  
**hours** 14:21 15:7  
 22:13 37:14  
**house** 14:22  
**housing** 72:18  
 74:9,10 76:22  
 77:12 79:2  
**Human** 16:13  
**hurry** 71:21

---

**I**


---

**icon** 20:10  
**idea** 61:24  
**identified** 56:4  
**ignorance** 40:3  
**ill** 25:19  
**illegal** 24:13  
**immediate** 5:13  
**immediately** 74:4  
**immuned** 25:3  
**immunity** 24:19  
 25:4,5  
**impact** 9:16  
 10:11,22 29:25  
**important** 27:22  
 33:24 38:21,22  
 40:8,14 41:19  
 41:24 46:7,11  
 46:15,16 47:16  
 51:20,23,25  
 53:17 75:14  
**impress** 42:14  
**improved** 22:8  
**improving** 10:12  
**in-service** 22:13  
**inaccurate** 45:13  
**Inaudible** 7:14  
 7:17,22  
**incident** 15:10  
 15:22 36:15  
 73:7  
**incidents** 14:8  
**inclusive** 55:1  
**income** 81:10  
**increase** 13:1  
**incumbent** 53:1  
**indicate** 63:5  
**indicated** 61:17  
**indicating** 61:5  
**indication** 14:2

**individual** 15:7  
 15:13 26:14,21  
 26:23 38:18  
 48:25 49:3  
 68:14  
**individualized**  
 22:25  
**individually**  
 64:11  
**individuals**  
 40:20 56:6  
 75:7,10,12  
 76:1 81:9  
**inform** 76:14  
**informally** 59:16  
**information** 33:8  
 33:10 59:2  
 65:19 72:8,13  
 72:24 73:13  
 79:24 80:4  
 81:14  
**initial** 15:9  
**initiated** 66:16  
 68:4  
**initiative** 69:24  
**inkling** 57:18  
**innuendo** 59:2  
**input** 73:22  
**inside** 61:18  
**instance** 77:11  
**instances** 27:11  
**insurance** 27:18  
 27:19,20,21,21  
 35:15  
**integrated** 64:5  
**integrity** 24:2  
**intentional**  
 25:15  
**interacting** 64:4  
 64:8  
**interaction** 11:3  
 44:1 63:22  
 64:3  
**interest** 53:2  
 60:16  
**interested** 68:17  
**internal** 63:6,11  
**Interrogatories**  
 29:13  
**intervention**  
 23:12 38:4  
**interview** 53:22

62:11  
**interviewed** 63:4  
**interworkings**  
 9:19  
**introduce** 3:17  
 5:8,12 6:19  
 8:16  
**introduces** 5:16  
**introduction** 6:2  
 6:3 8:2,9  
**investigate**  
 41:18 55:8,12  
**investigated**  
 14:15  
**investigation**  
 14:14 63:7,15  
**investigations**  
 17:22  
**investigative**  
 55:6  
**Investigator**  
 5:24,25 10:16  
 16:23 17:9,11  
**Investigator's**  
 36:15  
**invited** 70:21  
 72:5  
**invocation** 3:11  
**involved** 17:25  
 17:25 18:10  
 26:16,21 27:14  
 37:6 68:18  
 70:2,4 75:1  
 80:18,20,21,24  
**involvement**  
 12:12 64:16  
**involving** 15:10  
 18:1 36:16  
 62:11  
**IRS** 81:11  
**issue** 12:13 16:1  
 42:5 48:25  
 55:21 56:16  
 60:20,25 61:10  
 61:11,19 62:2  
 63:9 65:12  
 69:22 74:11,21  
 74:22 75:12,25  
 76:7 77:20,21  
 78:2 81:5  
**issued** 62:6  
**issues** 37:5,25

42:22 48:6,7  
 51:19 54:2  
 55:23,23 59:9  
 59:11,17,19  
 60:22 63:14,25  
 75:13  
**item** 4:23 5:8  
 6:1 16:20  
 19:20 61:22  
 70:6 71:5

---

**J**


---

**James** 2:14  
**January** 13:18  
 17:12,18,21  
 18:9 27:2  
 45:22 49:21  
 50:16  
**Jerry** 8:23 19:23  
 21:1 24:20  
 26:11  
**job** 14:23 15:15  
 19:11,15 42:19  
 42:25 43:2,4  
 44:25 45:15  
 50:7 62:24  
**Joe** 46:16,17  
 48:9 49:9,9  
 53:15,16,20  
 54:4 55:22  
 58:7 61:14  
 62:1  
**John** 44:14  
**Johnson** 5:14,15  
**join** 21:1 29:9  
**joined** 32:16  
**joint** 21:19  
**jointly** 40:12  
**Joseph** 56:19  
**judge** 20:6,7,9  
 20:15,18 21:21  
 21:22 22:5,16  
 22:16 23:3  
 26:8,9 27:14  
**judges** 20:13  
**Judgment** 22:7  
**July** 26:7,18  
 27:2  
**jurisdiction**  
 75:3  
**justice** 20:10  
 21:24 22:14

37:10 38:23

---

**K**

---

**keep** 10:19 23:10  
23:11 32:8  
52:13,18 65:15  
69:13 71:10  
80:6,21

**Keith** 20:9,15,18

**Keith's** 20:6  
22:16

**key** 23:22 25:18  
38:5,20

**kicking** 27:6  
30:5 38:4

**kidding** 33:4

**kind** 12:17 20:2  
25:24 42:11  
45:11,17 47:3  
49:24 54:22

**kinds** 34:15 37:4  
38:19

**Klan** 47:2

**knew** 57:25

**know** 6:14 8:4  
9:9 10:24 11:7  
12:2 13:21  
15:2 16:2,3  
19:5,5 20:18  
22:21 23:6,18  
23:23 24:24,25  
28:5,21,24  
29:2,3 30:9,10  
32:5,5 33:5  
34:3,8,12 35:8  
35:10,12,14,20  
36:25 37:11  
38:11,14 39:4  
39:8,10,20,20  
40:20,24 41:22  
42:5,11,21,23  
43:18 44:7,18  
45:6 46:13,14  
50:17 51:24  
53:12,13 54:21  
56:14,21,25  
57:1,4,10,24  
58:17,21 59:6  
59:18,25 63:12  
63:24 64:3,7  
64:11,13,15,16  
64:17,25 65:1

65:5,11,14,15  
65:20 69:3  
71:20,23 72:4  
72:10,24 73:3  
73:23 75:19  
79:17 80:8,10  
80:19

**knowledge** 41:6  
56:16 57:20  
62:2 74:24

**known** 18:1 24:23  
56:15 62:4  
63:8

**knows** 38:11,12

**Kryiacou** 7:12,12

---

**L**

---

**lady** 71:23 73:12

**laid** 46:22

**Lamar** 13:9,13,15  
13:17 16:12,12

**Lansing** 27:20

**laptop** 44:20,22

**large** 53:14

**larger** 29:17  
53:14

**largest** 28:18  
29:16

**LaShonda** 7:15

**laughter** 8:3

**law** 8:24 10:2,10  
10:11,13,20  
19:20,24 21:15  
22:14,24 23:10  
24:8 31:25  
37:12 39:10  
62:16

**lawsuit** 33:7

**lawyer** 37:14

**lawyer's** 37:17  
42:11

**lawyering** 35:13

**lawyers** 21:11  
23:19 25:20

**Leach** 7:8,8

**leadership** 34:1

**leading** 18:15

**leave** 47:24

**led** 23:4

**left** 20:5 46:23  
50:11,17,22  
52:23 82:2

**Legal** 6:25

**legendary** 20:22

**length** 30:23

**let's** 10:18 25:6  
28:25 29:20  
31:20 38:2,8  
45:18 47:22

**letter** 45:10  
73:16,18

**letters** 72:20

**LeVALLEY** 6:23,24

**level** 14:13,16  
61:18

**liability** 25:3  
27:19,20

**liable** 25:15  
41:10

**liaison** 7:5,16  
8:19

**lies** 32:1

**Lieutenant** 7:15  
7:15

**life** 12:2 22:20  
22:23 52:24  
54:19,23 55:2

**lift** 80:25

**lightly** 64:2

**Limitation** 30:18

**Limitations**  
30:11,14

**line** 31:21

**line-by-line**  
48:24

**lingering** 30:12

**Lionel** 7:6

**Lisa** 2:4 3:21

**list** 10:2 79:20

**listed** 48:3

**listen** 80:23

**litigation** 8:24  
19:24 20:2  
21:17 26:10  
31:23 33:12,22  
34:4,10 40:10  
40:13 41:23  
75:10

**litigations**  
23:15

**litigator** 26:19

**litigators** 24:20

**little** 9:17 19:3  
28:20 31:24

55:10

**live** 79:6

**living** 20:22

**loan** 49:24

**long** 21:20 30:22  
30:25 44:5  
51:12 59:19,21  
60:10 64:18

**longer** 45:21

**look** 10:21 14:2  
14:24 28:24  
29:2,20,25  
31:17 38:17  
48:8 53:24  
64:6 70:22  
73:20 76:15  
81:5

**looked** 38:23  
54:18 71:18

**looking** 3:18 6:3  
11:18 12:3  
35:24 51:16  
59:10 63:21

**lose** 14:1 52:17  
52:19

**lot** 34:11 42:4,9  
45:12 51:14,16  
67:21 80:20  
81:8,16,20,21

**love** 6:14,15 8:3  
8:5 51:3

**LSA** 60:7

**luck** 59:5

**luncheon** 20:7  
22:16 71:17

---

**M**

---

**ma'am** 13:10,19  
19:4 78:11

**Macomb** 25:9

**mail** 81:13

**main** 79:6

**Major** 7:6

**majority** 54:25

**making** 10:10  
34:11 39:23  
43:20

**MALE** 44:24

**malice** 25:19

**Mallet** 32:16,19  
32:25 33:2  
36:13 37:10

39:25 40:17  
76:2,4 78:4  
82:6  
**Mallett** 2:6  
**man** 8:8 14:21  
73:8 77:18  
**manage** 78:6  
**management** 23:13  
37:5  
**Manager** 16:13  
**managerial** 36:20  
**managing** 36:19  
**March** 10:19 22:4  
70:16,24 71:1  
**Martin** 32:21  
57:4  
**matter** 59:9  
60:16,20 66:8  
71:21 74:7,12  
77:2 78:18,21  
**matters** 37:15  
63:12  
**mayor** 9:14 52:21  
71:19  
**Mayor's** 79:23  
80:1  
**MCOLES** 10:3  
**McQuade** 21:18  
**mean** 24:24 54:12  
54:20  
**means** 44:11  
**media** 7:19 15:20  
15:22 46:9  
47:11,15 53:9  
53:12,18 54:3  
62:13,15 81:16  
**media/WXYZ** 81:17  
**Medial** 5:19  
**medical** 16:14  
29:9 36:1  
72:15 76:9  
77:22,23  
**meet** 61:2 67:2  
**meeting** 1:10 3:6  
3:9 4:15 5:19  
10:2 55:20  
70:24 71:1  
75:19,20 82:11  
83:5  
**meetings** 61:21  
75:17 80:19  
81:7

**Melvin** 8:10  
**member** 37:8,9  
**members** 4:6  
10:13 48:21  
60:24 63:12  
68:14  
**membership** 33:25  
57:8  
**men** 21:12  
**mention** 9:25  
**mentioned** 45:9  
64:19 68:8  
**mere** 57:8  
**meritorious**  
23:15  
**merits** 43:22  
**messages** 69:14  
**met** 39:15 48:14  
49:10  
**mic** 16:24  
**Michael** 7:18  
**Michigan** 1:15  
3:1 10:2,4,12  
25:13  
**microphone** 67:9  
**Mile** 70:17  
**million** 30:2  
31:14,15 32:6  
32:6  
**mind** 10:19 52:18  
**mine** 10:17  
**minister** 78:7  
**ministry** 23:4  
**minors** 22:25  
**minutes** 4:24  
10:16 32:17  
71:7  
**misconduct** 63:14  
**misleading** 13:21  
**mitigate** 54:1  
**modification**  
77:10  
**modified** 76:21  
**moment** 40:3  
**Mona** 83:3,12  
**Monday** 62:8  
**money** 76:16  
**monies** 33:16  
**monitor** 22:3  
**monitors** 24:2  
**Monroe** 15:23  
**month** 13:6,11

17:21 20:15  
22:3,3  
**monthly** 48:14  
**months** 13:25  
15:24 27:1,9  
49:2  
**Moore** 2:3 3:23  
3:23 4:16,25  
7:20 12:21,25  
13:4,10,14,16  
13:19 34:18  
35:4,6 36:8  
53:7 54:7,9,12  
55:16 56:8  
64:8 66:6 67:9  
67:15 74:6,16  
74:18 76:3  
78:1,16 79:9  
81:25 82:3,7  
82:10  
**mother** 22:19  
76:16  
**motion** 4:22 5:7  
21:19,23 38:24  
82:3  
**Motions** 28:9  
**Motors** 39:2  
**move** 4:12,16,25  
9:22 11:2  
44:13 64:19  
70:1,3,5,22  
82:5  
**moved** 4:18 5:2  
48:19 63:15  
82:7  
**movement** 60:13  
64:21  
**moving** 9:12,16  
47:6

---

**N**

---

**name** 17:4 36:17  
56:2 71:6  
72:14 79:13  
**names** 40:20  
**Native** 55:19  
**nature** 56:1  
59:19  
**near** 9:21,21  
59:12,12  
**nearly** 46:2  
**necessarily** 30:9

**need** 6:3 8:8  
43:19 44:1,3  
50:18 73:6  
78:23  
**needed** 45:14  
46:13  
**needle** 37:10  
**needs** 16:17  
**negligence** 25:16  
**neighbor** 15:10  
79:16  
**neighborhood** 7:5  
14:19  
**neighborhoods**  
9:16  
**never** 61:1,6  
69:1,3,8  
**new** 12:24 28:5  
62:22 63:10  
68:17 70:14,22  
**news** 53:21,23  
**nice** 19:12  
**Nick** 7:12  
**night** 73:7  
**nine** 11:16  
**nobody's** 22:22  
**Nods** 31:4  
**nonfatal** 13:2,10  
14:9,14  
**nonissue** 62:1  
**nonprofit** 72:18  
74:9,9  
**Norma** 5:20  
**note** 5:18 15:11  
**notes** 83:9  
**notice** 36:16  
**noticed** 13:1  
**notified** 68:2  
**November** 73:17  
**number** 17:20  
21:9 28:18,19  
28:22 36:6  
37:1,4 38:3  
39:1 47:1 64:6  
64:7 80:2,3,23  
81:9  
**numbers** 13:22,23  
29:5 30:7 32:3  
34:2,20,24  
**numerous** 48:11  
74:25

**O**  
**Oakland** 25:10  
 52:2 64:21,22  
**obligated** 65:14  
**observation** 6:12  
**obvious** 40:11  
**obviously** 28:18  
**occasionally**  
 36:14  
**occasions** 47:10  
**occupational**  
 16:16  
**occur** 52:16  
**occurred** 50:23  
 56:20 57:1  
 69:6 77:11  
**OCI** 5:16 16:24  
**Odom** 25:14  
**offered** 58:12  
**office** 23:18  
 25:2,4 36:15  
 36:21 79:23  
 80:1  
**officer** 15:23  
 23:14 25:16  
 28:14 35:22  
 36:22 38:3,12  
 41:15,16 42:12  
 43:25 44:14  
 45:21 47:1,14  
 59:3 60:8,13  
 60:16 64:21  
**officer's** 36:17  
 47:8  
**officers** 7:21  
 10:4 15:10,20  
 17:25 24:18  
 26:14,21,24  
 28:22 36:16  
 37:6 41:25,25  
 43:24 44:8  
 45:25 46:2  
 47:11 48:11,12  
 48:12,13 54:17  
 55:16,18 56:3  
 59:23,25 60:1  
 64:4,10 70:23  
**official** 8:15,15  
 9:11 49:14  
 63:15  
**officials** 45:5

**Oh** 44:17  
**Okay** 8:7,14 9:8  
 9:8 11:6 13:14  
 13:16,19 16:10  
 23:6 24:17  
 25:12 31:5,12  
 35:4 42:3  
 43:12 44:18  
 58:2,16,22  
 59:7 67:12,14  
 67:25 68:15  
**old** 9:8 20:9  
 22:19 30:20  
 60:7 70:13  
**older** 64:14  
**olive** 75:21  
**once** 30:23 36:17  
 49:5,6,7 55:4  
 58:24  
**one's** 37:17  
**one-for-one** 30:8  
**ones** 81:10  
**Op** 7:3  
**open** 10:19 17:14  
 17:22 32:14  
 59:4 68:16  
**operate** 65:6,18  
**operated** 81:13  
**operating** 54:21  
**Operations** 6:22  
**opinion** 12:10  
**opportunity** 11:4  
 12:8 19:25  
 45:4 64:1  
 67:11 81:18  
**opposed** 4:21 5:6  
 23:1  
**oral** 71:5  
**orange** 26:2 31:9  
**order** 3:9 17:5  
**organization**  
 72:17 73:24  
**orientation**  
 46:19  
**originally** 46:4  
 46:21  
**ought** 36:18 77:8  
**OUIL** 15:24 16:5  
**outcome** 15:15  
**outlets** 62:15  
**outlying** 44:7  
**outside** 16:4

61:8  
**outstanding**  
 18:23 19:11  
 32:2 42:19  
 43:1,4  
**overall** 11:12  
 14:3  
**oversight** 21:6,7  
 21:24 38:25  
 52:1,5  
**owner** 72:5  
**owns** 72:17

---

**P**  
**p.m** 1:12 3:3  
 70:25 71:2  
 82:11  
**pages** 83:7  
**paid** 27:23 28:13  
**Pam** 43:14  
**Pamela** 5:24  
 16:23 17:8,11  
**papers** 16:5  
**parameters** 46:7  
 53:10  
**parenthetically**  
 47:9  
**park** 77:9  
**parking** 76:12,17  
 76:20 77:3,3  
 77:21  
**parole** 22:20  
**part** 17:6 19:16  
 20:11 44:6  
 46:10 47:6  
 51:15 53:15,18  
 63:3 66:18  
 81:6  
**part-one** 11:12  
**participate**  
 19:12  
**particular** 11:1  
 21:25 37:25  
 56:21 71:11  
 73:1 74:7 76:7  
 77:20  
**particularly**  
 81:7  
**parties** 46:20  
 70:4 75:1  
**partner** 25:21  
**party** 47:20 80:5

**pass** 77:6  
**passed** 10:5  
 17:15 52:3  
**pause** 47:9  
**pay** 76:17 77:7  
**paying** 22:2  
 43:17  
**payouts** 27:16  
 28:17 29:2,20  
 31:14,15 33:7  
 33:12,22 34:21  
**peer** 15:25 16:14  
 67:21  
**people** 14:24  
 20:21 28:10  
 29:12 34:11  
 39:22 46:22  
 51:3 52:4,18  
 53:2 56:2  
 58:25 59:1  
 60:3 67:22  
 70:1 72:22,23  
 73:7,9 76:9,11  
 76:19 77:1,21  
 78:13 79:5,6  
 80:7,7,18,23  
**people's** 54:18  
 65:10,19,19  
**percent** 11:10,11  
 11:12,15,17  
 13:1,4,5,5,12  
 17:19,25 18:2  
 18:2,3,6,7,7,8  
 18:12,13,13,14  
 18:17,18,18,19  
 27:8,8 31:10  
 31:11,14,16,23  
 52:17 53:3  
**percentage** 13:22  
**period** 15:11  
 21:6,13 22:4  
 28:25 59:20  
**periodic** 34:16  
**person** 5:14 15:4  
 24:23 29:11  
 38:8 43:20  
 49:17 50:1  
 53:22 66:23  
 67:20 80:25  
**personal** 20:5  
**personally** 64:16  
**personnel** 64:8

**persons** 10:20  
**perspective**  
 45:15,16,18,18  
 45:20 56:25  
 69:21  
**pertaining** 16:4  
 75:14  
**phenomenal** 15:15  
**phone** 37:24  
 67:18 79:16  
**physical** 37:2  
**pick** 10:25 80:8  
**picture** 73:12  
**pictures** 72:21  
**piece** 69:1  
**pin** 56:2  
**place** 21:9,13,24  
 22:12 33:20  
 38:25 39:4  
 40:5,22 41:6  
 46:15 47:3  
 51:1 54:6,6  
 55:1 77:14  
 79:1 83:5  
**places** 52:4  
**Plaintiff** 29:10  
**plan** 53:14  
**planned** 60:21  
**play** 53:18  
**please** 3:12 8:16  
 19:21 22:10  
 27:7 52:13  
 71:6  
**pleased** 14:20  
 58:17 60:6  
**plentiful** 71:18  
**Plymouth** 72:16  
 72:18 74:8  
 76:22 77:11  
 78:7 79:2  
**point** 20:4 36:20  
 36:21 49:7,11  
 50:1 51:20  
 57:25 62:17  
 66:11 77:12  
**pointed** 15:6  
 66:19  
**points** 62:21  
**police** 1:9 2:14  
 9:13 10:4 11:2  
 16:14 20:20  
 21:11 22:14

23:11,13 25:1  
 25:21 26:14,19  
 26:20,21 27:23  
 28:14 29:5  
 30:18 31:9,22  
 32:3 34:13  
 35:9 38:2,12  
 39:12 40:6  
 42:4,6,12,12  
 44:14 45:19,21  
 47:14,15 49:18  
 51:4 52:1,3,9  
 52:10,12,14,16  
 52:21,25 53:25  
 54:16,21 55:2  
 55:7 56:6  
 59:24 62:6  
 65:9 69:22,22  
 72:25 73:1,21  
 74:14 75:8,15  
 79:24 80:16  
**policing** 21:10  
 21:21 22:9  
 30:6,7 32:2  
 39:24 60:4  
**policy** 41:11  
 57:5 76:22  
 77:11  
**political** 71:16  
**popular** 42:24  
**position** 12:22  
 80:16  
**possible** 33:3  
 34:3 39:22  
**possibly** 34:4  
 48:18  
**posted** 47:1,11  
**postings** 47:8  
**power** 55:6,8,9  
 75:24  
**PowerPoint** 47:22  
 49:6 65:23,24  
**practice** 41:11  
 43:18  
**practices** 21:14  
 22:8 24:2 27:5  
 39:11  
**praised** 61:17  
**pray** 3:13  
**prayer** 3:14  
**precinct** 7:9,11  
 7:13 9:3,6,7,9

13:9 14:13,15  
 18:2,2,3 46:2  
 47:19 48:14  
 64:6 74:3  
**precincts** 45:24  
 54:18 61:19  
**predatory** 35:13  
**preferably** 66:10  
**present** 44:4  
 47:6 63:11  
**presentation**  
 63:18  
**presented** 46:25  
 47:5 50:10  
 52:20  
**presenter** 44:13  
**president** 6:8  
 9:3,6 32:21  
 33:23 38:10  
 57:3 73:4,15  
 74:8,24 78:10  
**press** 62:5,9  
**pretty** 12:4,12  
 40:6 42:5  
**prevented** 34:5  
**previous** 34:1  
**printed** 53:21  
**prior** 40:8 47:4  
 62:4 74:23  
**prison** 22:23  
 23:4,8  
**private** 62:21  
 74:22,22 75:1  
 75:2 76:12,20  
 77:9  
**privilege** 20:5  
**privy** 75:18  
**Pro** 7:3  
**proactive** 47:5  
 51:14  
**probable** 42:4,7  
**probably** 60:9  
**problem** 23:24  
 44:21  
**problems** 53:24  
 64:20 80:7  
**procedure** 18:6  
 18:17  
**proceed** 27:13  
**proceedings** 83:4  
**process** 12:21  
 44:8,11 47:3

47:18 48:16,23  
 49:3 50:20  
 51:15,24 77:17  
**program** 20:12,12  
 81:18  
**programs** 81:21  
**Progressive**  
 40:13  
**promote** 81:19  
**proper** 79:4  
**properly** 4:18  
 5:2  
**property** 11:11  
 74:22 75:2  
 76:12,20,24  
 77:9 78:6  
 79:18,21  
**prophylactic**  
 37:23  
**pros** 69:25  
**prosecutes** 23:18  
**prosecution**  
 41:24 44:8  
**prosecutor** 38:16  
**prosecutor's**  
 25:2,4  
**protect** 79:6  
**protocols** 21:9  
 21:14 22:11  
 30:5  
**proud** 21:11  
**prove** 24:21  
 25:20  
**provide** 34:15  
 74:10  
**provided** 16:16  
**providers** 16:16  
 29:9 36:1  
**providing** 5:19  
**public** 1:13 9:17  
 10:13 11:2  
 17:6 58:24  
 62:2 69:2  
 70:25 71:10  
**Puerto** 55:21  
**purchased** 37:12  
**purpose** 67:4  
**purview** 61:9  
 63:13  
**pushing** 28:6  
**put** 10:8 17:4  
 21:9,13,24

22:11 28:1  
33:20 37:15  
38:25 46:14  
48:7 54:5,6  
57:20,24 69:4  
70:19 78:13,25  
**putting** 28:8

**Q**

**qualified** 24:19  
25:3  
**quarter** 11:9  
13:21,24 14:1  
**quarterly** 32:10  
42:21 43:6  
**question** 6:9  
12:14 16:19  
35:6 40:18  
54:7 67:15  
71:9  
**questions** 18:21  
32:15,23 50:13  
53:6 58:10,13  
**quickly** 28:8  
62:16  
**quietly** 33:3  
**Quinn** 2:13 5:18  
**quorum** 4:5,7,12  
**quoted** 53:22

**R**

**R** 83:1  
**race** 48:5 54:2  
59:4  
**racial** 46:1 48:4  
53:24  
**radio** 62:11  
80:14  
**raise** 63:25  
**raised** 59:11  
**ranger** 49:24  
**rap** 80:23  
**Rapids** 27:19  
**rates** 35:15 77:3  
77:3  
**reach** 57:9 61:24  
80:2 81:9  
**reached** 16:14  
76:8,21  
**reaching** 16:2  
75:17  
**react** 50:2

**read** 72:21  
**real** 56:22,22  
**realize** 40:8  
**really** 6:10 9:11  
13:18 14:20  
19:13 20:3  
28:4 29:14,21  
34:8 37:11  
38:4 41:11,19  
59:18 62:1  
79:14  
**reason** 7:21 50:9  
51:11  
**reasonable** 24:23  
**reasons** 29:7  
**received** 79:18  
**Receiving** 76:25  
**receptive** 64:17  
**recipe** 15:14  
**Recited** 3:14  
**reckless** 49:23  
55:11  
**recognize** 32:15  
43:13 67:4  
**recommendation**  
36:18 46:18  
48:25 54:9,10  
54:11,13,14  
59:11 60:25  
61:6,7,9 68:8  
**recommendations**  
46:13,14 48:18  
49:5,8 50:9,14  
54:5 55:4,12  
55:13 60:25  
**record** 5:23  
17:11 57:19  
66:15 69:2  
75:19 78:21  
**recorded** 83:4  
**records** 69:13,14  
**recover** 26:22,23  
**recruit** 70:18  
**recruiting** 19:7  
**recruits** 44:3  
**recusing** 74:21  
**redacted** 62:18  
**reduce** 79:20  
**reducing** 33:21  
**reduction** 11:10  
11:11 33:19  
**refer** 15:25

**reference** 9:15  
20:19 60:3  
61:3 62:12  
63:17 68:6,9  
**referenced** 62:12  
**refiled** 36:4  
**reflective** 68:19  
**reform** 22:7  
**regardless** 69:23  
69:25  
**regards** 72:1,13  
72:24 73:5,22  
**Reginald** 2:7  
3:25  
**regular** 32:10  
34:15  
**regulate** 75:3  
**related** 21:16  
47:2 48:5,5  
54:2 55:12  
59:4  
**relates** 14:12  
20:1 21:10  
39:10 50:6  
66:20  
**relations** 7:19  
9:4 51:12  
**relationship**  
35:10,12 51:2  
51:6,10,21,21  
**relatively** 36:4  
**release** 62:5,9  
62:13 65:13,13  
**released** 62:17  
65:12,12  
**relinquish** 74:5  
74:8,13  
**reluctant** 46:5  
**remarks** 50:5  
**remember** 36:1  
65:17  
**remind** 62:3  
**remorseful** 23:5  
**removed** 55:24  
**Renee** 6:21  
**report** 9:11  
18:20,23 49:11  
56:1,3,5 57:18  
57:20 58:1  
62:2,5,9,12,13  
62:18 65:10,10  
65:11,20 70:11

80:6,10  
**reported** 15:22  
16:5 49:15  
80:11  
**reporter** 5:21  
**reporting** 15:20  
42:20 59:12  
**reports** 32:11  
36:15,17,22  
42:21 43:6  
70:7,10 75:9  
**represent** 52:19  
**representation**  
39:19,22  
**representing**  
8:15 9:18  
12:12 33:19  
45:15 60:1,4,8  
**represents** 17:19  
**requesting** 62:9  
**requests** 62:15  
**required** 77:7  
**research** 51:16  
**reservations**  
56:23  
**residents** 79:7  
**resolution** 12:5  
**resolve** 77:16  
**resources** 16:13  
28:4 33:14  
**respect** 24:15  
38:2  
**respected** 12:2  
**respectful** 71:8  
**respond** 10:9  
66:12,25 67:7  
67:13  
**responded** 10:23  
**response** 15:9  
36:19  
**responsibilities**  
44:10  
**responsible**  
16:13  
**responsibly**  
63:24  
**rest** 14:2 22:23  
24:20 46:23  
**restrictive**  
10:21  
**restrooms** 61:11  
**result** 18:5 37:1

**resulted** 15:8  
**results** 27:6  
**retaliation** 56:6  
**retaliatory** 56:1  
**retired** 44:14,15  
 45:6,7,8 49:19  
 50:14 60:15  
 65:15  
**retirement** 11:23  
 12:3,6,7 49:14  
 65:25  
**retreat** 49:12,14  
 49:15  
**return** 5:15  
**Reverend** 72:11  
 72:22 73:3  
**Rican** 55:21  
**Ricardo** 2:3 3:23  
**Richard** 2:5 3:11  
 4:2  
**right** 3:18 5:13  
 7:21 16:6  
 18:24 23:7  
 24:22 27:25,25  
 30:1 43:1,20  
 47:22 50:8  
 65:20 66:4,17  
 69:7 73:2  
 75:23 76:25  
 77:4 78:19  
**rights** 20:14  
 24:1 59:24,25  
**rioting** 51:8  
**risk** 52:7  
**Road** 70:17  
**robberies** 14:6  
**robbery** 14:8  
**Robert** 2:11 5:13  
**robust** 51:14  
**rogue** 41:15  
 49:23  
**role** 60:3  
**roll** 39:9 48:11  
 69:1  
**roll-out** 46:9  
 53:9  
**rolled** 50:16  
**room** 46:19,22  
 50:8 82:2  
**roughly** 48:21  
**rounds** 48:10  
**rule** 24:9

**rules** 76:20  
**ruling** 20:19  
 26:8,13 29:9  
 29:24 35:24  
**rumor** 59:2  
**rumors** 57:25  
**run** 52:7  
**rushed** 73:8

---

**S**

---

**safety** 1:13 9:17  
 70:25 71:10  
**Sam** 6:11  
**San** 64:22  
**Sanders** 2:8 3:19  
 3:19 5:1 82:5  
**sat** 21:19 48:21  
**save** 34:3  
**saw** 71:25  
**saying** 21:20  
 22:17 37:13  
 47:14 52:6  
 53:8 68:1 72:2  
 79:19  
**says** 76:15  
**scam** 79:22 80:2  
 81:6  
**scams** 81:9  
**scheduled** 70:24  
**scope** 25:17  
 45:14 71:10  
**scrutiny** 43:22  
**search** 24:13  
**second** 4:17 5:1  
 13:24 14:1  
 21:2 35:6 39:7  
 46:12  
**seconded** 4:19  
**secret** 65:15  
**secretary** 2:12  
 4:4 5:9 70:8  
 70:11  
**Section** 24:8  
 30:14  
**security** 76:9  
**see** 3:7 6:6 7:24  
 8:1 9:5 19:13  
 21:16 22:12  
 23:23,23 25:25  
 26:1,3 27:3,6  
 27:17 28:17,18  
 29:7,16,23

30:1 31:6,20  
 32:18,25 35:16  
 35:17 36:16  
 44:1 47:23  
 51:8,9 52:14  
 57:7 60:6  
 71:18 75:20  
 76:15 78:14  
**seeing** 11:14  
 30:7 31:22  
 37:25 54:2  
**seen** 29:1 56:3  
**segment** 81:17  
**seizure** 24:13,16  
**select** 68:13  
**selected** 61:25  
 67:15  
**selections** 67:5  
**semi-annual**  
 32:10  
**senior** 81:8  
**sense** 37:23  
**sent** 45:10 79:24  
**sentenced** 22:18  
 22:20  
**sentencing** 23:1  
 23:1  
**sequestered**  
 14:22  
**sergeant** 5:18  
 55:20,22  
**serious** 70:2  
 71:20  
**seriously** 59:10  
**serve** 21:11 77:1  
**served** 23:7  
**service** 18:7,18  
 71:2 74:22  
 76:14 80:14  
**services** 5:19  
 32:7  
**serving** 12:4  
**session** 62:21  
 64:15  
**set** 11:13 38:14  
 72:11 83:6  
**sets** 29:13  
**settled** 28:7  
 73:2  
**settlements**  
 34:19,20,22,24  
 35:1

**Seven** 70:17  
**share** 20:25  
**shared** 59:1  
**sharing** 20:16,23  
**sheetings** 11:18  
**Shelby** 2:5 3:11  
 3:13,15 4:2,2  
 4:17 64:9  
**shifting** 29:6  
**shoes** 12:9  
**shootings** 11:17  
 13:2,10 14:9  
 14:15  
**short** 44:9  
**shortly** 8:12  
 46:24 48:9  
**shot** 22:19  
**shots** 14:20 15:4  
**shout** 20:15  
**show** 42:8 49:7  
 65:24 72:6,22  
**shows** 23:17  
**sic** 5:20 60:13  
 77:11  
**sick** 23:17  
**side** 6:5 37:13  
 39:12 48:13  
**side-by-side**  
 31:18  
**sidewalk** 29:4  
 35:16  
**sidewalks** 28:15  
**sight** 52:17  
**sign** 38:10,12  
 49:16 78:14  
**signed** 49:9  
 50:22 52:2  
**significant** 15:8  
 31:22 32:4,4  
 43:16 44:6  
**simple** 10:15  
**simply** 76:19  
**single** 23:9  
 66:22  
**sir** 6:7,18 8:25  
 15:17,19 16:10  
 18:25 19:2,18  
 32:13,19,24  
 33:5,7 34:6  
 36:8 40:2,7  
 41:13,21 43:7  
 44:18 53:5

56:10,13 58:11  
 58:20 59:14,22  
 60:23 65:7  
 66:2,3 67:9  
 69:18 71:13  
 74:19  
**sit** 32:25 33:1  
**site** 52:19  
**sitting** 11:10  
 60:18 73:20  
**situation** 14:19  
 46:25 51:7  
 74:11  
**six** 4:6  
**six-year** 25:25  
**slept** 15:13  
**slide** 21:2 22:10  
 24:3 25:5,23  
 26:4,5,25 27:7  
 27:10 29:15,19  
 29:22 31:5,11  
 31:16,19  
**slides** 30:5  
**smaller** 13:23  
**smiling** 3:7  
**Smith** 71:14,15  
 71:15 75:4,5  
 75:23 76:8  
 78:10,12,19  
**snapshot** 20:1  
 25:24 26:1  
 27:9 31:6 32:8  
**social** 47:11,15  
 81:16,16  
**software** 37:10  
 38:21,25  
**somebody** 30:23  
 76:15  
**someplace** 24:24  
**something's**  
 37:18  
**somewhat** 13:21  
 40:23 57:7  
 75:21  
**soon** 21:3 36:4  
**sorry** 17:23 19:2  
 33:2 65:22  
 66:13  
**sort** 66:21 75:21  
**sought** 16:8  
**soul** 20:7 22:16  
**sound** 81:5

**Southwest** 12:25  
**span** 27:4  
**speak** 12:13 17:1  
 33:22 40:13  
 42:22 58:9  
 64:5,10,14,25  
 71:7 78:18,21  
**speaker** 71:13  
 79:9  
**speaking** 59:9  
 60:21 78:15  
 79:16  
**specifically**  
 18:6  
**spectacle** 54:4  
**speed** 48:15  
**spent** 49:1  
**spirit** 8:2,5  
**spiritually**  
 80:25  
**spot** 14:5 38:19  
**spotted** 44:18  
**spotter** 73:11  
**spotting** 38:21  
**spying** 72:2  
**SRT** 14:18 15:9  
 15:15  
**staff** 5:9,12,17  
 6:2,19 7:24  
 28:3 39:15  
**staffed** 23:21  
**staffing** 14:12  
**stake** 28:13  
**stand-off** 15:6  
**standard** 24:4,25  
**standards** 10:3  
 22:10,13 23:12  
**standing** 70:6,10  
**start** 6:17 51:13  
**started** 21:8  
 53:8 73:24  
**starting** 3:17  
 6:20 29:23  
**state** 9:14 10:4  
 10:11 24:6  
 25:6 26:2  
 27:12,17 38:16  
 47:17 57:19  
 66:15  
**stated** 33:13  
 45:6,13 56:17  
 63:22 72:25

73:18 74:23,25  
 75:18,19  
**statement** 71:24  
**stating** 69:3  
**stations** 80:14  
 80:15  
**stats** 17:12  
**Statute** 30:10,14  
 30:17  
**stay** 64:23  
**staying** 70:4  
**stenographic**  
 83:8  
**stenographically**  
 83:4  
**step** 48:16 67:9  
**stepped-up** 40:24  
**steps** 76:14  
**Steve** 11:23  
**stop** 73:6  
**stops** 22:14  
**stories** 54:17,20  
 54:23 55:3  
**Storm** 5:20 83:3  
 83:12  
**story** 29:18  
 53:20 56:4  
**street** 1:14 51:8  
 70:23 71:3  
 76:25  
**strive** 81:7  
**Strong** 20:7  
 22:17 23:3  
**stuff** 47:3  
**subject** 8:3 66:8  
 70:2  
**submit** 68:17  
**successful** 41:23  
**successfully**  
 42:7  
**sue** 42:3  
**sued** 24:5,5,6  
**suggest** 36:19  
**suggesting** 61:5  
**suggestion** 61:23  
 76:22  
**suits** 34:12  
**summer** 13:25  
 49:1,2  
**super** 41:24 47:2  
**supervisor** 17:16  
**support** 16:14,17

67:21 82:6  
**supported** 5:3  
 82:7  
**Supreme** 25:14  
 29:8,24 35:25  
 36:3,5 37:9  
**sure** 10:7,10  
 12:4,12 19:15  
 39:23 40:23  
 43:19 53:1  
 54:5 67:14  
 76:11,13 78:22  
**surface** 59:17  
**survey** 10:5,6,11  
 10:15,18,22,23  
 11:1  
**sustained** 18:12  
 18:13  
**sweet** 14:5  
**sworn** 21:3  
**system** 23:12  
 30:20 37:12,12  
 38:4 39:3,3,5  
 40:4,5,14 41:6  
 41:14 54:22  
**systems** 41:19

---

**T**


---

**T** 83:1,1  
**table** 40:19 48:1  
 48:2,7,21  
 56:17 57:5  
 75:1  
**tail** 43:17  
**take** 10:18,25  
 11:21 16:24  
 18:21 20:4  
 33:24 44:24  
 52:8 63:24  
 82:3  
**taken** 34:9 35:25  
 55:10 59:9  
 83:5  
**talk** 11:8 47:20  
 47:20 60:12  
**talked** 30:5  
 45:25 48:2,11  
 54:16 55:18,19  
 55:21,22  
**talking** 13:9  
 14:9 15:3 32:5  
**tape** 72:1

**taping** 5:18  
**target** 35:13  
**task** 63:1  
**tat** 69:11  
**taught** 69:12  
**tax** 81:10  
**taxes** 79:20  
**team** 67:21, 22  
**tear** 15:12  
**Tech** 6:5  
**tell** 37:16, 21  
     39:8 47:20  
     72:6 77:4  
**telling** 36:1  
     56:4  
**Temple** 70:17  
**ten** 10:16 32:16  
**tend** 11:19  
**tendency** 20:21  
**terminate** 38:24  
**terminated** 21:23  
**terms** 9:12, 13  
     10:21 12:11  
     15:3 16:1 17:5  
     33:14, 16, 19, 20  
     33:21 34:2, 3  
     39:12 40:20  
     41:6 42:20, 21  
     42:23 43:23  
     44:7 52:5  
     59:10, 12, 19, 24  
     60:7, 18 62:2  
     63:24 64:3, 7, 9  
     70:22 77:19  
     79:3 80:17  
**testimony** 83:5  
**text** 69:14  
**thank** 3:8, 15  
     5:11 8:1, 7, 7  
     8:11, 13, 21, 25  
     12:4 13:19  
     15:16 16:18, 20  
     16:21, 22 18:23  
     18:25 19:17, 18  
     19:19, 22 20:16  
     20:23, 24 32:13  
     32:19, 22 33:7  
     33:18 34:6, 7  
     36:8, 10 39:25  
     42:16, 19 43:5  
     43:7, 8, 10, 11  
     44:18 45:3

53:4, 5 56:8, 24  
 57:12, 17 58:3  
 58:4, 14, 15  
 59:8 63:19, 21  
 65:21 66:2, 3  
 68:20, 23 69:16  
 69:18, 19 70:4  
 70:5, 9, 12 74:4  
 77:23, 25 78:3  
 79:8 81:23  
**thanks** 6:2 45:4  
     56:11 67:25  
**themselves** 3:17  
**thing** 11:22  
     25:19 39:6, 7  
     46:12 55:25  
     68:25 69:13  
     71:16 74:13  
     80:13  
**things** 9:12, 15  
     14:11 23:14  
     24:22 25:20  
     29:21 31:12, 12  
     37:1 38:20, 22  
     39:10 41:19  
     42:23 45:10, 12  
     45:13 47:11  
     51:2 52:9, 11  
     52:16 53:1, 9  
     53:17 56:2  
     61:3, 12, 13  
     63:2, 14 64:5  
     66:7 71:25  
     80:12 81:1  
**think** 11:1 12:11  
     14:18 21:8  
     22:5 31:24  
     38:20 39:23  
     40:21 46:21  
     47:13, 16 59:5  
     59:21 60:15, 22  
     62:7, 10 63:25  
     64:2 65:11, 17  
     66:25 68:3, 10  
     68:21 69:25  
     73:21 81:12, 18  
**thinking** 78:12  
     80:20  
**third** 1:14 17:2  
     29:1, 1, 1, 3, 4, 4  
     46:15 70:19  
     80:4

**thought** 46:6, 7  
     46:11 47:5  
     53:17 67:19  
     80:9, 14, 17  
**threatened** 72:23  
**three** 10:1 12:10  
     15:13 30:16, 20  
     33:9 53:8  
**three-year** 30:17  
**thrust** 10:12  
     60:2, 7 79:6, 7  
**thumb** 52:8, 14  
**Thursday** 1:11  
     3:2  
**tidbit** 19:3  
**tight** 24:14  
**Tim** 7:8  
**time** 3:10 4:13  
     11:16, 17 13:15  
     17:4 18:21  
     22:15, 15, 18  
     23:7 28:1  
     29:18 30:10, 23  
     36:23 44:17  
     49:17 51:12  
     53:4 59:20  
     64:13 65:9, 22  
     65:24 69:16  
     74:4 78:18, 20  
     80:15 83:5  
**timeline** 62:7  
**times** 42:9 56:18  
     75:1 81:8  
**tit** 69:11  
**today** 5:12, 21, 24  
     11:22 17:13  
     45:11 50:3  
     69:24  
**Todd** 7:4 81:15  
**told** 54:19 80:3  
**Tom** 39:16  
**tomorrow** 11:24  
**tonight** 10:17  
**top** 15:3 64:5  
**torn** 52:22  
**torts** 25:15  
**total** 17:21  
     31:14  
**totally** 81:12  
**touched** 37:9  
**tougher** 34:11  
**tow** 74:22

**towed** 72:11, 22  
     73:10 75:2  
**towers** 73:13  
**towing** 71:24  
     72:4, 5, 13, 14  
     72:15 73:16, 19  
     74:1 75:1  
**track** 37:14  
**tracking** 37:10  
**tracks** 23:13  
     27:1  
**tragedies** 22:21  
**tragic** 15:14  
**trail** 34:19  
     42:13  
**train** 19:6 41:12  
**trained** 63:11  
**training** 19:15  
     22:13 35:21  
     39:9 44:2, 7  
**transcript** 83:7  
     83:8  
**transgender** 48:6  
     61:10  
**transit** 28:22  
**transition** 22:1  
     22:4  
**transparency**  
     40:16 65:6, 18  
**Transportation**  
     29:3, 24 31:8  
     31:13  
**treatment** 16:9  
**tremendous** 20:19  
     62:24  
**trend** 20:3 26:3  
**tried** 33:2 77:16  
     77:17 78:8  
**true** 72:1 83:8  
**trust** 10:12 11:2  
**truth** 35:12 77:2  
**truthful** 56:14  
**try** 38:19 78:24  
     80:8, 9  
**trying** 10:22  
     28:5 52:4  
     72:12 80:6, 10  
**turn** 49:22  
**TV** 49:22 80:14  
**twice** 36:17  
**two** 15:23 28:23  
     30:4 31:2, 3

46:2 50:12  
 55:18 66:7  
 71:7 72:7  
 75:18 81:1,17  
**type** 14:24 27:14  
 33:12,22 34:2  
 44:1,2 46:9  
 80:22  
**typically** 14:7  
 28:24,25

---

**U**

---

**U.S.** 21:18  
**unbeknownst**  
 53:20  
**understand** 27:22  
 28:10 39:1  
 41:9 44:4  
 49:25 59:16  
 67:5 68:10  
 75:5 78:22  
**understatement**  
 12:17  
**understood** 56:1  
 59:16 76:11,13  
**unfortunately**  
 15:19,20 45:7  
**unfounded** 18:12  
**UNIDENTIFIED**  
 44:24  
**union** 57:9 63:11  
**unionism** 60:4  
**unique** 51:1,1  
**unit** 14:18 23:21  
 55:6  
**United** 72:16  
 78:7  
**units** 18:1  
**unknown** 17:25  
**unredacted** 62:18  
**updates** 34:16  
**updating** 42:21  
**USC** 24:7  
**use** 22:8 23:15  
 38:6  
**usually** 13:22  
 14:1

---

**V**

---

**valet** 76:14  
**Vann** 4:11  
**various** 45:24

**verdicts** 34:23  
 35:3  
**verifiable** 37:2  
**versus** 25:14  
**vested** 60:16  
**vetting** 38:13,14  
**Vice** 2:3  
**Vice-Chair** 3:24  
 74:6  
**view** 36:20,21  
**viewed** 43:18  
**vigorously** 28:12  
**violations** 41:10  
**violence** 37:2  
**violent** 11:10  
 14:7 15:8  
**visit** 22:23 23:7  
**vitality** 38:21,22  
**voluntarily** 7:22

---

**W**

---

**wait** 78:11  
**Walton** 7:10,10  
**want** 3:8 5:12  
 9:12,25 14:17  
 14:22 17:1  
 19:15 26:11  
 32:1 33:1,7  
 38:19 39:13,19  
 41:23 42:14  
 44:11,24 45:17  
 46:8,10 52:14  
 53:11,14 55:25  
 56:2,5 57:9  
 58:6,16 59:8  
 60:19 63:21  
 66:15,22 67:3  
 67:8 69:20,23  
 70:3,4 72:10  
 73:14,22 74:3  
 74:7 77:15  
 78:3,4,21  
**wanted** 19:25  
 20:10 25:24  
 27:3,16 28:17  
 31:6 32:8,15  
 41:8 43:13  
 45:9,11,23  
 46:17,22 47:19  
 53:15,24 54:3  
 54:4,5,22 55:2  
 55:8 57:16,19

57:24 64:12  
 65:16 66:9  
 78:17 80:12  
 81:2  
**wants** 40:4 41:2  
**warrant** 24:24  
**Washington** 6:25  
 6:25 22:1 39:7  
 43:14  
**wasn't** 48:5  
 65:14 72:1  
 75:18  
**Water** 27:24  
 39:18  
**way** 22:2 30:21  
 37:11 41:9  
 44:5 48:16  
 50:2 55:1  
 59:21 60:10  
 64:18 75:4  
**Wayne** 25:8,12,14  
 42:10 71:2  
**we'll** 17:4 21:2  
 25:21,22 38:12  
 67:10 81:19  
**we're** 3:8 4:12  
 5:15 8:11 9:22  
 11:9,10,12,15  
 11:17,20 13:13  
 13:24 14:3,11  
 17:3,6,8 21:10  
 27:17,21 28:5  
 28:6,8 30:7,24  
 31:21 34:11  
 35:8,9,11,23  
 35:24 36:3,7  
 37:25 39:8,12  
 39:24 43:19  
 52:5,25 54:19  
 55:5 59:13  
 63:25 64:1,9  
 70:5 73:24,25  
 78:22  
**we've** 16:7 28:3  
 28:4,25 36:23  
 56:15 60:9  
 64:17  
**website** 10:8  
**week** 9:15 14:18  
 17:3  
**Weekley** 46:16,17  
 48:9 49:9

53:15,16 56:19  
 58:6,7,13  
 61:14 62:1  
 66:25 67:8  
**weekly** 1:10 3:6  
 58:8,10,15  
 67:18  
**Weekly's** 62:25  
**weeks** 10:1 14:12  
 57:6 81:17  
**weigh** 11:4 43:19  
 64:1  
**welcome** 81:24  
**well-established**  
 24:22  
**went** 26:3,5  
 43:21 47:12  
 48:1,10,23  
 49:15 54:18  
 59:15 62:16  
**west** 6:5 70:17  
 71:3  
**whatsoever** 64:11  
**white** 5:15 21:25  
 26:1 43:13  
 55:17,19  
**Whitney** 7:10  
**wholeheartedly**  
 12:19  
**wide** 66:19  
**Willie** 2:2 3:5  
 4:9  
**Wilson** 7:6,6  
**winded** 30:21  
**wish** 11:25 12:16  
 12:19 20:22  
 49:6  
**witness** 44:2  
**witnessed** 44:12  
 60:9  
**witnessing** 43:24  
**WJR** 62:10,11  
**woman** 22:18  
**women** 21:12  
**wonder** 36:18  
 37:3  
**wonderful** 69:17  
 71:17  
**wondering** 81:1  
**Woody** 7:18,18  
 62:7  
**wool** 6:9

**word** 38:20  
**words** 23:22 38:5  
**work** 5:20 7:25  
 9:13,20 28:8  
 32:2 34:13  
 39:12 47:22,23  
 49:13 62:23,25  
 65:23 67:20  
 72:7,8 77:15  
 81:19  
**worked** 14:20  
 21:25 43:15  
 58:25 60:3  
 61:15,15,20  
 65:8 72:3 76:9  
**working** 15:3  
 35:23 36:7  
 39:3,4 47:23  
 49:7 61:3  
**works** 38:16  
 68:11  
**wouldn't** 6:10  
 24:10  
**write-ups** 23:15  
**written** 73:17

---

**X**

---

**X** 38:3

---

**Y**

---

**Yeah** 13:13,17,20  
 24:12 26:7  
 35:5 44:20  
 53:10 65:4  
 69:11  
**year** 11:9,10,13  
 11:16,18 13:13  
 13:15 14:2  
 17:20 20:8  
 21:3 30:2  
 32:12 47:10  
 52:2,4 53:20  
 57:21 69:24  
 70:19 81:21  
**years** 12:10 20:9  
 20:23 21:7,7  
 22:19 23:6,8  
 30:12,16,20  
 31:2,3 33:9,9  
 33:25 40:19  
 51:14 52:21  
 56:15

**yield** 40:3 41:1  
**young** 8:8 14:21  
 52:21 60:13  
 71:23 73:12  
 80:18  
**youth** 80:20  
 81:20

---

**Z**

---

**0**

---

**1**

---

**1** 2:5 4:3 27:2  
**1-800-Sue** 35:14  
**10** 13:13 29:11  
 29:12,13  
**10:30** 70:16  
**105** 28:3  
**10th** 7:13  
**11** 18:13 31:14  
**11th** 7:9  
**12** 29:12,12,13  
 62:15  
**12th** 7:11 18:3  
**1301** 1:14  
**13th** 19:10  
**14** 23:19  
**149** 74:2  
**14th** 9:9  
**15** 28:25 48:21  
 50:7  
**153** 18:4  
**159** 17:13  
**16** 4:24 22:19,24  
**16th** 73:17  
**17** 18:13  
**171** 17:22  
**17th** 70:16  
**18** 27:2  
**18th** 26:7  
**19** 27:1,9 50:9  
**19-month** 27:3  
**190** 74:2  
**1967** 74:10  
**1974** 51:25 63:23  
 63:23  
**1983** 24:8 26:2  
 30:15  
**19th** 49:13

---

**2**

**2** 4:11 8:22  
 13:15  
**20** 11:15 18:7  
**20-year** 28:25  
**2003** 47:16  
**2011** 26:1  
**2012** 27:2  
**2013** 26:7,18  
 27:3  
**2014** 21:23  
**2015** 29:17,21  
 31:10,18,24  
**2016** 3:2 22:4  
 29:20 31:12,18  
 31:24  
**2017** 1:11 4:24  
 10:19 17:12,18  
 70:16,25 71:1  
**2017C** 19:9 70:18  
 70:20  
**20th** 10:19  
**22nd** 49:14  
**23** 1:11 3:2  
**23rd** 4:15 49:15  
 49:19  
**24** 18:7 27:8  
**24/7** 12:9,10  
**25** 46:21  
**26** 21:23  
**28** 18:6 31:16  
**29** 31:11  
**2nd** 9:3,6,7 22:4  
 70:25

---

**3**

---

**3** 2:7 4:1  
**3,175,000** 31:8  
**3:00** 1:12 3:3  
 70:25  
**30** 18:18 37:18  
 46:21  
**30th** 20:6  
**31.9** 31:23  
**34** 23:6,8  
**35** 26:19,20  
**350** 13:5  
**36th** 23:19 42:10  
**39** 18:17

---

**4**

---

**4** 2:2 3:5  
**4.9** 30:2,2 31:15

**4:44** 82:11  
**40** 15:11 22:13  
 48:11  
**400** 13:1,3,4,5,5  
**41** 17:25  
**42** 24:7  
**44** 11:17  
**45** 18:12  
**455** 29:22  
**48226** 1:15  
**4th** 13:9

---

**5**

---

**5** 4:9 47:1 64:7  
**50** 13:12

---

**6**

---

**6** 2:4 3:22 11:10  
 18:3  
**6:30** 71:2  
**60** 37:17  
**61** 27:8  
**62** 31:14  
**66** 31:10  
**6th** 18:2

---

**7**

---

**7** 2:3 3:24 17:19  
 18:2,2,8,19  
**7,000** 10:23  
**7,300,000** 31:9  
**7.3** 30:2,3  
**720** 29:22

---

**8**

---

**80** 52:17 53:3  
**801** 71:3  
**83** 83:7  
**85** 17:18,22,23  
 17:24 18:4  
**88** 17:23 18:9,15  
**8th** 18:1

---

**9**

---

**9** 18:14,18 64:6  
**90** 17:17  
**94** 20:9  
**9th** 71:1